



Yes I Am!

Introduction: Peter's encounter with Cornelius brought a new perspective on the gospel. The Holy Spirit saves Gentiles and Jews in the same manner—through faith in Jesus. The mission to the gentiles continues and more and more people come to faith. The believers in Antioch were first called “Christians.”

Text: Acts 11

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Tell of a time when you have been part of something exciting and some people were critical, while others were supportive.
2. Why were there certain Jewish believers skeptical of the experience that Peter had with Cornelius?
3. What was the problem with eating with gentiles? Was it their tradition or the law of God?
4. How can we place our tradition above the word of God? What matters to us that in reality is not essential to the faith?
5. How did the gospel spread in Antioch? What was the message preached?
6. Antioch was a pagan nation who served false gods. Some see a city in darkness and think that there is no hope. Why is there always hope for the darkest of places?
7. How did Barnabas react to the work of God among the gentiles in Antioch? How is this a different reaction from the Jewish believers earlier in the chapter?
8. How can you be someone who encourages others to follow Jesus? How can you encourage your church?
9. Why did Barnabas seek out Saul to help in the ministry? Why is it important to have others help you in ministry?
10. What does the term Christian mean? How do you think the believers in Antioch received that name?
11. Do you feel that the term “Christian” has lost its meaning in today's culture? Why/Why not?
12. Discuss/Write how a Christian should live their life?
13. What evidence in your life is there that you are a follower of Jesus? Do those you work with know you are a believer?
14. Why must we share our faith? Why should we never be silent about our faith?

Think About it:

It is important to recognize and celebrate when the Lord is saving lives. We often criticize others when they do not do things the way we would do them. The best thing you can do for other believers is to celebrate when the Lord is blessing and moving. Join God in his activity and help lead others to faith in Jesus. Do not live with a critical spirit.

If you were accused of being a Christian . . . would there be enough evidence to prove you were a Christian?

Moving Forward:

Thank God for the people He has placed in our life. Seek to encourage at least one person this week in following the Lord. Pray for the lost. Look for opportunities to share your faith. Live a life of faithfulness to Jesus!