

## Acts 11-12 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In Acts 11:19-22 where else did some scattered Christians go (v19), and to what 2 groups (v19, 20)? Explain the message they preached (v20). What were the 2 results (v21, 22)?

5. Based on 11:22-26 what did Barnabas discover (v22, 23) and what did he do (v23)? Why (v24)? What else did he do (v25, 26) and why was this wise? What historically event occurred (v26) and why was this significant?

6. According to 11:27-30 who else went to Antioch (v27) and what was prophesied that was later fulfilled (v28)? How did the church there respond (v29-30) and what does this reveal?

7. From 12:1-5 who persecuted the church next (v1) and who did he kill (v2)? Who was pleased by this and how did Herod respond (v3, 4)? How did the church respond (v5)?

8. Using 12:6-11 describe what happened to Peter (v6, 7-8, 9-10) and his reaction at first (v9)? What did he come to believe (v11)?

9. Read 12:12-19. Where did Peter go and what were they doing (v12)? Describe what occurred (v13-14, 15, 16) and what he shared (v17-18). What lessons can we learn from this story?

10. In 12:18-25 what 2 events revealed Herod's pride (v18-19, 20-23) and how did God respond to the 2nd (v23)? In contrast to Herod's plans how was God's plan working (v24), and what team had been formed for its next stage (v25)?

11. Look back over Acts 11-12. Based on these chapters what does the name "Christian" mean? Identify some characteristics of Christians from these chapters. How do you think we compare today?

### Scripture to Remember

"But the word of the Lord continued to grow and be multiplied."

**Acts 12:24 (NASV)**

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### **Life Group Questions—A Formula for a Fruitful Witness (Acts 8:25-40)** *(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with your group about one of the "craziest" or counter-intuitive things you ever did for the Lord. Why did you do it and how did it turn out?
2. Read Acts 8:26-35. What made Philip's obedience "crazy"? What are some of the unexpected commands that God has given you? What kind of arguments do you typically have with God when He does this?
3. Discuss this statement: "If God commands it you don't need to pray about it". What are some of the keys to knowing when to pray and when to obey?
4. Talk about how God prepared the Ethiopian's heart for Philip's witness. What does it tell us about God that He told Philip to leave the Samaritan revival for this one?
5. How was Philip prepared to be the witness—both mentally and spiritually?
6. Share with each other about how well prepared you think you are, both in terms of understanding and being able to explain salvation to someone else. How about in terms of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and dependence on Him?
7. Talk about steps each of you can take to improve your preparation to share Jesus effectively.



# MANIFEST DESTINY

Studies in Acts

October 24, 2010

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

Volume 9, Issue 07



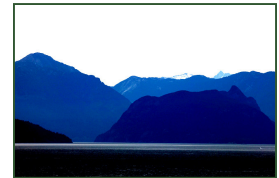
### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## What’s In a Name? Acts 11-12

For Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet last names were a useless convention that hindered their romance. As Juliet said, “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” In the Bible, though, names are significant because they indicate the nature of the person. In this week’s study we discover that Jesus’ followers were first called Christians, or “little Christs”, at Antioch, showing just how much they looked like Him. The section begins with Peter’s explanation of his collaboration with Gentiles. Some of the Jewish believers took issue with Peter for eating with Cornelius, a Gentile, and his household. Peter, though, related how God had directed the event, telling him first to not call anything “unholy” that God had cleansed. The event cul-

minated in the salvation of Cornelius’ household, confirmed by the Holy Spirit’s manifestation. This led Peter to conclude that he should not stand in God’s way if He had given them the Holy Spirit, too. There was agreement with this and God was glorified by all. Next, the persecution of Stephen led to greater extension of the church, especially in Antioch. A large number there believed and Barnabas was sent to confirm this. He witnessed God’s grace and began to encourage those who had believed; he then brought Saul in to help him with the work and the number grew even more. It was there in Antioch, rather than Jerusalem, where believers were called “Christians” first. Finally, at Antioch Agabus prophesied a world-wide famine, and the church there



**The manifest destiny of disciples is to recapture the world for Jesus.**

sent an offering to the Judean brothers, showing their solidarity. In the last section there was the elimination of a challenge from Herod. He began to persecute believers, killing James, John’s brother, and then tried to do the same with Peter. God answered the church’s prayer for Peter and he was delivered. This led to the execution of the soldiers; then, in another exhibition of pride Herod accepted glory reserved for God, and He executed him. God’s word, however, kept spreading and the stage was set for more expansion through Saul and Barnabas, showing that the only name that matters is Jesus.

## Study Questions for Acts 11-12

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study\\_questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions))

<p>1. Read Acts 11:1-3. Who heard about the Gentile conversion (v1) and why was that significant to them? Who did this bother (v2) and why (v3)?</p>	
<p>2. From 11:4-14 what was Peter’s primary defense of his actions (v4, 7-9, 12, 13-14)? What was his main point (v9)? How should we apply that?</p>	
<p>3. Using 11:15-18 what occurred as Peter spoke to Cornelius (v15) and how did this affect him (v15-16, 17)? What effect did this story have on his hearers (v18) and what was their conclusion (v18)?</p>	

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