

Acts 11: Nobody Knows Their Names

Acts 11:19-26 (with Acts 8:1-4) • For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Read Acts 11:19-21 and look for the names. There aren't any. Luke just says "some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene." They weren't apostles. Back in Acts 8:1 the apostles stayed in Jerusalem while everyone else scattered. These were refugees from the persecution that started with Stephen, and Luke picks up his exact words from 8:4: "those who were scattered." They made their way roughly 300 miles north to Antioch, the third city of the Roman world, and they did something new. They talked to Greeks, "preaching the Lord Jesus." A church was born, and in Acts 13 that church sends Barnabas and Saul to the nations. Luke never tells us who these men were. He tells us why it worked: **"the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord."** Nobody remembers their names. Everybody knows his.

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Acts 8:1-4**, then **Acts 11:19-21**, then **Acts 13:1-3**. Ask what Stephen's death ended up producing, and who Luke gives the credit to.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in Acts: **Acts 8:1-4** ("all scattered... except the apostles"; "those who were scattered went about preaching the word") • **Acts 13:1-3** (the Antioch church sends out Barnabas and Saul) • **Acts 4:36** (Barnabas, "a native of Cyprus")

Luke's Gospel: **Luke 1:66** ("the hand of the Lord was with him") • **Luke 23:26** (Simon of Cyrene carries the cross) • **Luke 24:47** (repentance and forgiveness proclaimed "to all nations")

Rest of Scripture: **Isaiah 59:1** ("the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save") • **1 Corinthians 8:5-6** (many "lords," yet "one Lord, Jesus Christ") • **Philippians 2:11** ("every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord")

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

He Saw the Grace of God and Was Glad

John Piper • Desiring God (sermon, 1991)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/he-saw-the-grace-of-god-and-was-glad>

Sermon on Acts 11:19-24: how God turned persecution into the spread of the gospel to Antioch.

The Legacy of Antioch

John Piper • Desiring God (sermon, 2009)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-legacy-of-antioch>

Sermon on Acts 11:19-26: a church planted by others becomes a sending church.