



Rock Point Church  
Simon Medcroft | 2.15.26

**Big Idea:** The mission of the church is to reach, build, and send.

### **Acts 11:19-30 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. <sup>20</sup> However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. <sup>24</sup> Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. <sup>26</sup> When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

<sup>27</sup> During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) <sup>29</sup> So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. <sup>30</sup> This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

### *1. Reach out (with the gospel)*

- a. Reaching despite suffering.
- b. Reaching across cultural divides.
- c. Reaching by ordinary believers

### *2. Build up (in the faith)*

- a. Building with encouragement.
- b. Building through teaching.
- c. Building distinctive Christians.

## **Acts 13:1-3 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. <sup>2</sup> One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

### *3. Send on (elsewhere)*

- a. Sending money.
- b. Sending people.

#### GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. When you face personal trials or "suffering," does it typically cause you to share your faith more or to pull back and go into survival mode?
3. Why do we often assume that only "professional" ministers are responsible for reaching others, rather than ordinary believers?
4. Read Acts 11:22-24. How can you be more intentional about using your words to build up and encourage other believers in their faith?
5. What is the difference between simply attending a church service and actually being "built up" as a distinctive follower of Christ?
6. Read Acts 11:25-26. If someone watched your life for a full week, what evidence would they see that you are a Christian?
7. Read Acts 11:27-30. How does your current approach to giving reflect your trust in God's ability to provide for your future needs?

8. Read Acts 13:1-3. What is one thing you currently hold onto that you might need to "send" or release so it can be used for God's mission?
9. Looking at the mission to reach, build, and send, what is one practical step you will take this week to apply this message to your life?