

The Starting Point

Description

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Acts 11:19-30

Have you ever been around for the formation of a new group? Our society is focused on organization and structure these days. New groups, new churches, and new committees are usually formed in council meetings, birthed in board rooms, or at the very least, sparked by an idea in a break room during the lunch hour. The beginning of the Christian movement, however, was much more organic. We are privy to that story as we read the book of Acts. We've pulled back the curtain, so to speak, and read about the birth of this nascent group.

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. In Acts 11 we read about three characteristics of this fledgling movement of Christians. First, they were persistent, telling of the good news everywhere they went (vv. 19-21). Second, they encouraged one another (vs. 23). Third, they gave generously of what they had and according to their gifting (vv. 29-30). May these characteristics be true of us as Christians today! May we share the good news about Jesus with persistence, encourage one another, and share freely with others as they have need.

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