

November 11

Acts 11:19-30

These verses tell about the early church exploding in growth in the city of Antioch.

Question to Consider:

Antioch is the first place that followers of Jesus were given a name – Christians. What does your name mean to you? By what name to you prefer to be called? Why?

Prayer:

God, Jesus called you “Father.” Your people have called you “Yahweh,” “El Shaddai,” and other names. I thank you that you love me enough to invite me to call on you by name, and I thank you that you love me enough to call me by name. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

November 12

Acts 12:1-19

This passage tells of Peter’s miraculous escape from prison.

Question to Consider:

Verse 12 tells us that the people were gathered and praying, and it is likely that they were praying for Peter. Why, then, do you suppose their reaction to news of his arrival was, “You’re out of your mind?”

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know the Scriptures proclaim that with You all things are possible, but I live with limitations so it is difficult for me to understand Your power. Please increase my faith and help me to grow in faith such that I come to *expect* miracles from You. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

November 13

Acts 14:1-7

Unlike Antioch that we read about two days ago, the people of Iconium were divided about the gospel of Jesus and even plotted against those who proclaimed it.

Question to Consider:

Why do you suppose the Good News of Jesus Christ is often divisive?

Prayer:

Loving God, I know that the coming of Jesus forces each of us to choose whether to follow him or not. I pray that I always stand firm in my choice, but also help me to love those who disagree. I pray that I will share the love of Christ such that someone’s heart might be opened to You. In His name I pray, Amen.

November 14

Acts 14:8-20

These verses tell of another extreme reaction to the proclamation of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Question to Consider:

The people of Lystra quickly concluded Paul and Barnabas were gods. Have you ever jumped to a wrong conclusion? What was it, and what was the outcome?

Prayer:

Merciful God, please forgive me when I hastily misjudge another person, when I jump to a conclusion, because so often those judgments and conclusions are wrong. Please help me to be patient, slow to judge, and to always seek Your guidance. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

November 15

Acts 15:1-21

This passage tells about a dispute in the early church and how it was resolved.

Question to Consider:

There was a good chance in this case that the early church could have become divided, but instead the people listened and eventually the right choice was made. Can you think of a time when you were involved with a group or project in which division was possible, but then was avoided? What were the circumstances and how was it resolved?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, You are gracious, loving, and so patient with me. Help me to have the same patience, to listen to what others are saying, and most of all to listen to You. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.