

Aug 25, 2019

Speaker: Eric Naus **Series:** Beyond the Boundaries – Living as a Church on Mission

Passage: Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3

Community Group Questions: "Crossing Boundaries Together"

1. As a church, we're thinking about what it means to live "on mission." We're joining God in his mission to reach the lost through the gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ, and we're doing this by sharing and showing the gospel in our everyday lives! This week, Pastor Eric suggested that many boundaries are best crossed together, collectively, as a whole church. In your life, can you share some examples where you've seen entire churches coming together to cross geographic, cultural, or relational boundaries with the gospel? Share your stories with the group.
2. In the book of Acts, we see the example of the early church crossing geographic boundaries by planting new churches in new regions of their world. Read Acts 11:19-26. According to verse 19, what did God initially use to force Christians out of Jerusalem, and up to new places like Antioch? Can you think of other examples where you've seen God use unusual circumstances to force his church to bring the gospel to new places?
3. Some of the Jewish Christians who fled Jerusalem were uniquely gifted to reach "Hellenists" (i.e. gentiles) in Antioch with the good news of Jesus, because they were originally from Greek speaking areas like Cyprus and Cyrene (see verses 20-21). This is one example of God "equipping those he calls." What unique gifts and resources has God given to Christ Community Church, which we could use to make an impact through church planting?
4. Antioch was an important city. Take a moment to look it up in your Bible maps. It was the 3rd largest city in the Roman empire (2nd only to Rome and Alexandria), with ½ a million residents. It was cosmopolitan, multi-cultural, and influential. Why was it so important for the church at Jerusalem to send Barnabas to help this new church? What skill set did Barnabas bring? (see Acts 4:32-37, 9:26-27). Why did Barnabas retrieve Saul from Tarsus, and what could Saul uniquely offer this church? Putting this all together, what kind of leadership does a newly planted church need in order to thrive? What kind of leaders and core-volunteers should Christ Community Church be looking for, as they look to start a new church?
5. The Antioch church could easily have grown comfortable. They were well positioned, well taught (see 11:26), they were positioned in an influential city, and they were seeing much spiritual fruit. Yet, shockingly, we see that this church chose not to "circle their wagons" and focus on themselves, but instead, they sent out some of their "best and brightest" to plant new churches in other regions! Read Acts 13:1-3. What can Christ Community Church learn as we look at the generosity of the Antioch church,

especially as they resisted becoming too comfortable? What lessons apply to our own goal of planting a church in 2020?

6. The church at Antioch thrived *even more* as a result of giving away Paul and Barnabas for the work of planting new churches. Not only did these missionaries succeed in establishing dozens of new churches in Asia minor and beyond, but the church at Antioch became the center of gravity for the missionary movement in the ancient world! In other words, the Antioch church became even healthier as they gave away some of their best people to start a new work. In your opinion, how will God strengthen Christ Community Church even more, as we send out some of our top people, and our best resources, to plant new churches for the spread of the gospel?
7. CCC is sending Rob and Kendrah Davis out to plant “Living Branch Church” in 2020. Pastor Eric urged our congregation to continue thinking about three things: Pray, Give, Go. Which of these are you especially thinking about? In what unique ways can this community group support this effort as the year unfolds?

Prayer suggestion: Pray for CCC in our church planting efforts. Pray that God would provide the resources and people needed to see this church well established. Pray for the Davis family – for their encouragement, for their protection, and for their provision. Pray for the families on the SE side of Tucson that we hope to reach through this new church! Pray that the hearts of our member at CCC would grow in our passion to live on mission by planting this church together!