

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# FLAWED MASTERPIECE



wisdom from  
ancient voices

WEEK 2



# BARNABAS TO ANTIOCH: ACTS 11

In the second week of our new summer series, Flawed Masterpiece, and we are focusing on the unsung hero that is Barnabas, whose story can be found throughout the book of Acts (Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 15:36-40). We are honing in on chapter 11, picking up verses 19 to 26. Barnabas catches wind of how the church in Antioch is being scattered by the persecution that broke out after the stoning Stephen. Barnabas continues to be encouraging to those doing the good work of the kingdom of God! He first arrives with sincere gratitude and encourages Cyprus and Cyrene.

## BARNABAS + SAUL GATHER THE CHURCH

But Barnabas noticed they needed help and remember a man who we may all know (he wrote most of the New Testament) who could bring something very crucial to the persecuted disciples in Antioch. Barnabas ignited the ministry of Paul! By bringing Saul (Paul) up to Antioch, they began to teach, gather, and equip the disciples who were first called Christians at Antioch.

As a group take some time to research a few exegetical curiosities that come from this chapter: First, why is it important to highlight Paul being referred to as Saul in this situation? What was the significance of calling him Saul?

Second, this is the first time disciples of Jesus are called Christians, what is the significance of this?

"Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:25-26)



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stands out you about Barnabas?
- Why here, is Paul referred to as Saul?
- How do you see Barnabas playing a role of encouragement in the lives of those around him?
- Share a story of a time where you have been encouraged and uplifted by a coworker. How did you feel in that moment? What are some ways it changed your work atmosphere?

## PRAYER

- Take this time to pray for your group members. What are some specific things you need prayer for?
- How can you remind your church family of the unconditional love of God?

