

Contending for the Faith
Text: Acts 11:19-30
February 10, 2024

Big Idea: To be faithful on mission, the Church must partner together in mission.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4

“Churches achieve together what no one church could accomplish alone.”-Dave Harvey

- a) Do you truly believe the Church is better together? Why or why not?
- b) Go to www.gccollective.ca. Discuss some ways GCC is seeking to live out this call.

To be partnered on mission, we must...

Point 1: DECLARE one MESSAGE (vv. 19-21)

Question: Faithful partnership depends on pure gospel conviction. Are you living with it?

Question #5

- a) **Rd vv. 19-21:** What was the city of Antioch like? How is this different from the Jerusalem church?
- b) How could the make up of the churches and cities have limited partnership between the churches?
- c) What was the essential, foundational thing that united these churches in Christ?
- d) Based on this text, what does a life of gospel conviction look like?
- e) Who has the Lord put around you to declare the gospel to? Spend time praying for them.

Question #6

- a) **Rd Jude 3:** Why does faithful partnership & mission advancement depend on churches holding to the true gospel that was “once for all delivered to the saints”?
- b) What is the pure/true gospel? Write it out and share it.
- b) What happens when churches try to ‘partner’ together without the foundation of the true gospel?

Question #7

- a) This world is filled with so-called “gospel’s”! What are some of these?
- b) Which of these are you most tempted to believe at times? Why that one?
- c) What fruit is evident in your life when you are pursuing that false gospel?
- d) What do you think you will get from that, that you don’t already have in Jesus? Use Scripture to support.
- e) Spend time confessing these areas and praying for faith the gospel promises to confront them.

Point 2: **ENGAGE** one **MISSION** (vv. 22-30)

Question: Faithful partnership depends on Great Commission conviction. Are you living with it?

Question #8

- a) **Rd vv. 22-30:** What are the 3 marks of the life being lived with a commission conviction?
- b) What is at stake if a Great Commission conviction is absent in our lives?
- c) Which of these do you find it the most difficult to live out? Why that one?
- d) How has Jesus equipped us to live on mission like this?
- e) What next step(s) can you take this week (individ. and as a group) to live on mission in these ways in the church?
- f) Spend time praying for one another in these areas.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) **REVERENCE** before God: Jesus, You are the Head of the Church who_____.
- b) **HUMILITY** before God: Jesus, I confess i) A lack of living with a gospel conviction when____. ii) A lack of missional conviction in (See the 3 marks in point 2)_____.
- c) **THANKSGIVING**: Jesus, thank You for empowering Your Church to be stronger together by_____.
- d) **SUPPLICATION** to God: Jesus, I ask for i) Faith to live with a gospel conviction in____. ii) A greater missional mindset through_____.

Memory Verse:

“When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,”-Acts 19:23