



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Acts Chapters 11 and 12

Lesson 9

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What did God draw your attention to in Acts 10?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Don't be dismayed when you experience spiritual warfare! Spiritual opposition arises when we are being effectively used by God. This is clearly demonstrated in our text this week. The Apostle Peter was used by God to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. After a revival broke out, he was brought before the church council in Jerusalem. There, Peter testified of the glorious work of the Holy Spirit. Not long after Peter was exonerated by the council, King Herod threw him in prison. However, God was not through with the apostle; He had even greater plans to accomplish! In fact, God used the opposition against Peter to increase his effectiveness and spread the Gospel further. As you read Acts 11 and 12 take special note of how God used spiritual opposition for His glory. Write a title for each section:
  - a. Acts 11:1-18
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Acts 11:19-30
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Acts 12:1-17
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Acts 12:18-25
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Ask God to help you persevere to victory through any spiritual opposition this week.

*When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad,  
and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.*  
Acts 11:23

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 11:1-18

1. What did the *apostles and brethren* in Judea hear? Acts 11:1b
  
2. When *Peter came up to Jerusalem* after meeting with Cornelius, what was the attitude of *those of the circumcision*? Acts 11:2b-3
  
3. Peter began to explain everything *in order from the beginning* (Acts 11:4). Use his explanation in Acts 11:5-15 to review and highlight the following:
  - a. his *vision* (verses 5-6, 10)
  
  - b. his conversation with God (verses 7-9)
  
  - c. his encounter with the men sent by Cornelius (verses 11-12a)
  
  - d. his meeting with the household of Cornelius (verses 12b-15)

(1) Who did Peter indicate was responsible for what happened? (verse 15)
  
4. When *the Holy Spirit fell upon* the Gentiles, what did Peter remember? Acts 11:16
  - a. Link this with John 14:26 and share your thoughts.
  
5. From Acts 11:17 remark on Peter's conclusion to these things.
  
6. How did the brethren respond to Peter's testimony? Acts 11:18
  - a. What is so wondrous about this news?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 11:19–30

1. From Acts 11:19 document the spread of the gospel following Stephen’s martyrdom.
2. Use Acts 11:20–21 to cite what took place in Antioch.
3. When they heard the *news* from Antioch, the *church in Jerusalem* sent Barnabas to them (Acts 11:22). Record and comment on what Barnabas saw and did there. Acts 11:23
4. From Acts 11:24a describe Barnabas.
  - a. What was the result of his ministry? Acts 11:24b
    - (1) Why do you think Barnabas was the right man to send to Antioch?
5. *Then* what did Barnabas do? Acts 11:25–26a
  - a. What did Barnabas and Saul do together? Acts 11:26b
    - (1) Why do you think Barnabas went in search of Saul?
  - b. By what significant name were the believers *first called* in Antioch? Acts 11:26c
    - (1) What does this convey to you about their witness?
6. At that time *prophets* came to Antioch, one of which was Agabus (Acts 11:27–28a). What did the Spirit reveal through him? Acts 11:28b
  - a. Use Acts 11:29–30 to comment on the response of the *disciples* to this prophetic word.
7. Recall that the name *Barnabas* means *son of encouragement*. Use Acts 9:26–27, 11:25–26 to review Barnabas’ relationship with Saul and share how his actions exemplify his name.
  - a. How is Barnabas an example to you?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 12:1-17

1. What did Herod do *about that time*? (Note: the James mentioned here was the disciple of Jesus and brother of John.) Acts 12:1-2
  - a. Why might this have rocked the *church*?
2. Read Acts 12:3a and comment on Herod's motive for deciding *to seize Peter also*.
3. Use Acts 12:4 to describe Peter's predicament.
4. Link the activity of the *church* while Peter was *kept in prison* (Acts 12:5) with 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Hebrews 13:3. Share your thoughts.
5. From Acts 12:6 note Peter's dire circumstances the night before Herod intended *to bring him out*.
  - a. What does the fact that *Peter was sleeping* suggest to you? See also Isaiah 26:3.
6. Read Acts 12:7-10 and share what you find intriguing about Peter's escape from prison.
7. What did Peter realize when he *had come to himself*? Acts 12:11
8. Answer the following from Acts 12:12-17:
  - a. Where did Peter go after this? Acts 12:12
  - b. What happened when Peter *knocked at the door*? Acts 12:13-14
  - c. From Acts 12:15-16 remark on the response of the believers to Rhoda's announcement.
  - d. Describe the scene in Acts 12:17.
    - (1) The James in this verse was the brother of Jesus. Why do you think Peter wanted *James and the brethren* to know about his deliverance?
9. Share a lesson you received from these verses about prayer.

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 12:18–25

1. Cite the reaction of Herod and the *soldiers* to Peter's escape. Acts 12:18–19
2. Note Herod's dealings with Tyre and Sidon from Acts 12:20.
3. Record the response of the people to Herod's *oration*. Acts 12:21–22
4. According to Acts 12:23, what *immediately* happened to Herod?
  - a. Why did this happen to him? Acts 12:23b
5. Contrast Herod's fate with the experience of the church at this time. Acts 12:24
  - a. Link this situation with Psalm 54:4–5 and share your thoughts.
    - (1) How is this truth a comfort to you?
6. Recall that Barnabas and Saul had brought famine *relief* to Jerusalem (Acts 11:29–30). According to Acts 12:25, what had been accomplished *when they returned*?
  - a. Link this with Colossians 4:17. What do you see?
  - b. The John Mark in Acts 12:25b that Barnabas and Saul *took with them*, is the author of the Gospel of Mark. Why do you think he would be an asset? See also 2 Timothy 4:11b.
7. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in the circumstances of Acts 12:18–25?

