



# Building the church

*A sermon series on the Gospel of Acts*

## Discipleship 101

Acts 11:18-30

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 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,

24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. 27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers[d] living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

- Acts 11:18-30



"A seed essentially acts as a tiny, breathing biological capsule waiting for the right conditions to wake up."



Acts 6:7: "The **word of God** spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

Acts 12:24: "But the **word of God** continued to spread and flourish."

Acts 13:49: "The **word of the Lord** spread through the whole region."

Acts 19:20: "In this way the **word of the Lord** spread widely and grew in power."

“ . . .so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

—Isaiah 55:11

## **Acts 11:18-30**

- **Main Idea:** As the Gospel spreads, it flourishes, is established, and bears fruit.

- **19-21:** The Gospel Spreads
- **22-26:** The Gospel is Established
- **27-30:** The Gospel bears Fruit

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-Acts 11:19-21

## **Acts 8: The Ethiopian**

- God is working on the Ethiopian's heart as he reads Isaiah 53
- God instructs Philipp to go speak to him.
- The Ethiopian receives the Gospel and is baptised.

## **Acts 9: Paul**

- God appears to Paul in a vision.
- God tells Simon to welcome Paul and share the Gospel.
- Paul receives the Gospel and is baptised.

## **Acts 10: Cornelius**

- God gives Peter a vision
- God tells Cornelius to send for Peter
- Cornelious receives the Gospel and is baptised.

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

- Acts 11:20-21

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

- 1 Samuel 16:7

“and the Lord’s hand was with them”

- Acts 11:21

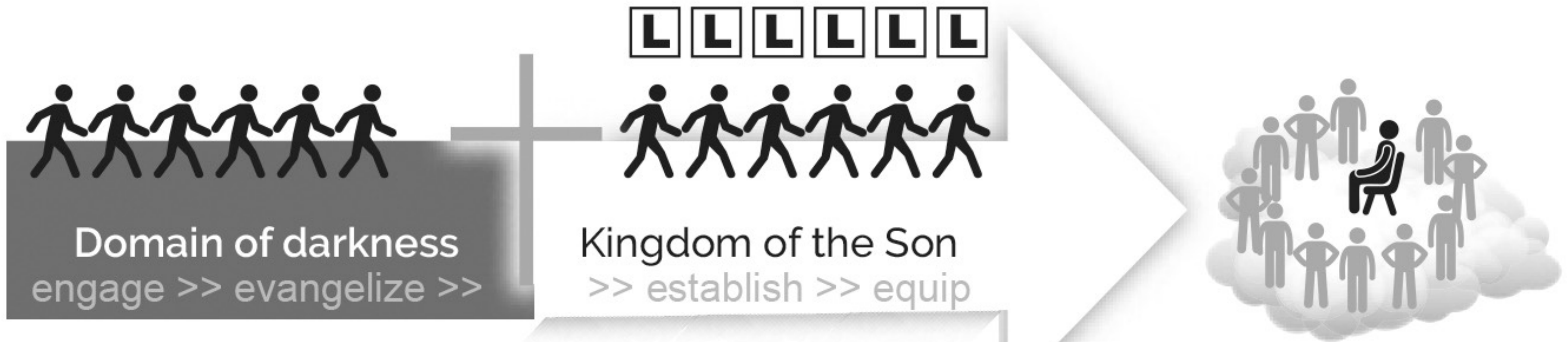
# **Three Encouragements in our Evangelistic Efforts**

**One:** God is at work in the heart's of those around us.

**Two:** God is at work in us empowering us through the Holy Spirit

**Three:** God is at work in the message of the Gospel itself.

Rescued and transformed



Help those around you take a step to the right  
through the 4Ps

A redeemed  
people gathered  
around the risen  
Christ

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- Acts 11:22-26

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purpose,

- Acts 11:23b

## **Acts 4:19-20**

Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

## **Acts 20:24**

24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

# **The Gospel = The Apostolic Message of the Cross**

**The crucifixion:** whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.

**The resurrection:** The God of our fathers raised Jesus

**The Ascension:** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior

**Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins:** to give repentance and forgiveness of sins.

**Gift of the Holy Spirit:** the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

# The Church At Antioch: A Blueprint for Discipleship

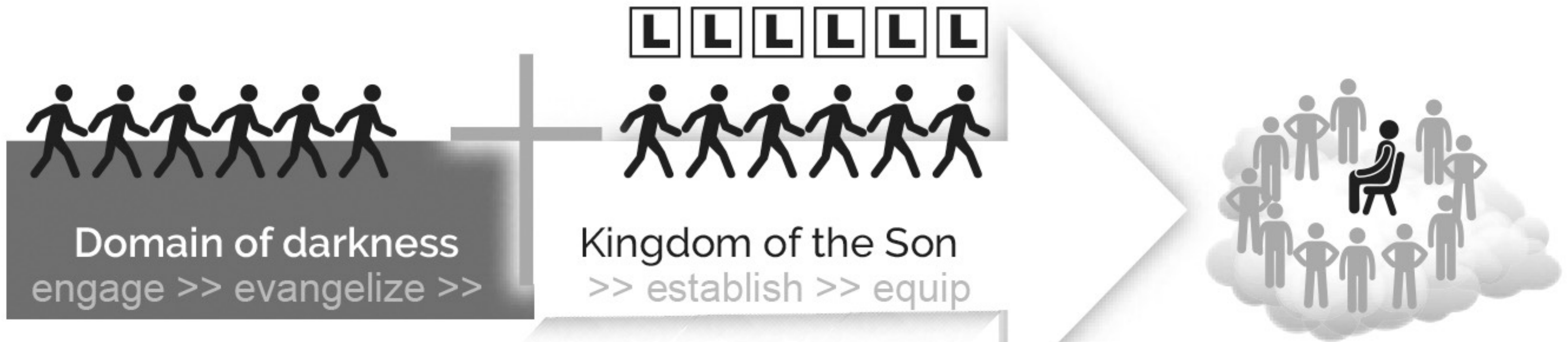
One: A faithful leader

Two: Faithful co-laborers

Three: Intentional Discipleship

Four: Teachable Believers

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- Acts 11:27-30

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## Questions to Ponder:

*“The Gospel Spread, Established, and Bore Fruit”*

Are we intentional about sharing the Gospel generously and often?

Like the Antiochen Christians, are you committed and willing to learn from your leaders by becoming established and equipped in the Gospel?

What is the motive behind your good deeds and service to others?  
(Gospel overflow or self-affirmation)

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

- Matthew 9:36-39