

CVC SERMON OUTLINE & LIFE GROUP GUIDE

ACTS 11 — WHAT IS YOUR WALL?

Big Idea: God's grace is bigger than our boundaries. He calls us to cross the walls we build so we can welcome, reach, encourage, and care for others.

Ask: Have you ever had to go through a wall, fence, doorway, or barrier to get somewhere? Why? Sometimes God has to break through a wall **to get to us**. Sometimes **we are the wall He wants to break through**.

Acts 10 recap: Peter's vision → Cornelius → Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit → Peter realizes God shows no partiality.

READ: Acts 11:1–3 (NLT)

Ask: Why were the Jewish believers upset that Peter had entered and eaten in a Gentile home?

The issue wasn't only **where Peter went—it was WHO he was willing to pursue**.

1. GOD'S BOUNDARIES CHALLENGE OUR BARRIERS

READ: Acts 11:15–18 (NLT)

Focus: Acts 11:17 — If God gave them the same gift, “who was I to stand in God’s way?”

Ask: What did Peter realize about his own assumptions?

Who might we consider an “unlikely candidate” for God's grace?

What can become a barrier between us and people God wants us to reach?

Have we allowed tradition, prejudice, preference, fear, or comfort to become a wall?

PERSONAL: What barrier have I created that God never created?

When God reveals a wall, **repentance is a privilege**—we get to turn and join what God is doing.

Acts 11:18: The church responded to God's work with **worship, not resistance**.

2. GOD BRINGS THE BREAKTHROUGH

READ: Acts 11:19–21 (NLT)

Ask: What looked like a setback but became an opportunity?

Where might God already be working around you?

What would change if you looked for **the opening instead of the wall**?

HE IS ALREADY WORKING — WE GET TO JOIN HIM.

Encourage: We don't need perfect circumstances to share Jesus.

3. BE A BARNABAS

READ: Acts 11:22–26 (NLT)

Barnabas saw God's grace, **rejoiced**, and encouraged the believers. He then sought out Saul and brought him into the work.

Ask: Who has been a “Barnabas” in your life?

Why can it be difficult to celebrate when God uses someone else?

Who needs encouragement from you right now?

Who might become more effective if you invested in them?

IDENTITY: The disciples were first called **Christians** at Antioch.

Ask: If “Christian” means our identity is connected to Christ, what should people see in the way we live?

BE A BARNABAS.

4. FAITH RESPONDS WITH GENEROSITY

READ: Acts 11:27–30 (NLT)

Ask: What does this teach us about faith and action?

Why is “according to their ability” important?

How can we care for people's spiritual AND physical needs?

What has God given you that could become a blessing to someone else?

Genuine faith doesn't merely **feel compassion—it acts.**

WHAT IS YOUR WALL?

Ask: What is the wall God may be asking you to cross?

THREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

1. Who is God asking me to welcome?
2. Where is God asking me to share the gospel?
3. Who is God asking me to encourage or help?

TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

This week, God is asking me to welcome: _____

This week, God is asking me to go/share: _____

This week, God is asking me to encourage/help: _____

DON'T LET THE WALLS WE BUILD KEEP US FROM THE PEOPLE GOD IS ASKING US TO REACH.