



the upside down series  
week ten: the upside down church

1. The Church grows when \_\_\_\_\_ is silenced.
2. The Church grows when God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Church grows when Christians are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Church grows when \_\_\_\_\_ is maintained.
5. The Church grows when \_\_\_\_\_ is honored.
6. The Church grows when people are \_\_\_\_\_.

*Anytime you gather a group of believers in a church you are going to run into some conflict! The key isn't avoiding conflict but resolving it biblically and with love! I am praying that God uses the example of the early church to spur us on to greater love and unity. God's glory is at stake!*



## day one: God's way wins

*Start your time with the Lord in prayer.*

*It's not surprising that the Jewish believers are going to have something to say about what just happened in Caesarea. Peter's got his work cut out for him. Let's see how he handles it.*

*Read Acts 11:1-18.*

### exploring the text

1. What attitude did the Jewish believers take toward Gentile converts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was the basis of their criticism? Was it warranted?

3. How would you describe Peter's response to the criticism?

4. In vs. 16, Peter remembers something. What is it?

5. In vs. 17, a great statement is made by Peter. Write it down here.

6. What was the response of the Jewish believers to Peter's explanation?

interesting fact

Some today seek to remove all antagonism and to develop perfect harmony between the church and the world. Remember that Christianity has made its greatest progress because of the antagonism of men toward it.

### personal application

7. How have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?





## day two: handling criticism

*Since this week's passage is relatively short, we will take some time and explore what God has to say about criticism.*

*As you come before the Lord, ask him to bring to mind any area of sin you need to confess. Approach him with a listening attitude.*

Now read II Timothy 2:24-25.

### exploring the text

1. Who are these verses addressed to?
2. List the characteristics of the Lord's servant.
3. How must one correct his opponent?
4. What is the goal in correcting someone?

verse

II Timothy 2:24-25

Not quarrelsome,  
but kind to  
everyone, able to  
teach, patiently  
enduring evil,  
correcting his  
opponents with  
gentleness.





## day three: first Christians

*We are back in Acts 11 today. I hope you found yesterday's homework a nice change from the usual. I find that I need variation in my routine sometimes to keep things fresh!*

*Read Acts 11:19-26.*

### exploring the text

1. Get a Bible map out and trace the spread of the gospel. Did you find Phoenicia? That place is near and dear to my heart.
2. What caused the gospel to be spread according to vs. 19?
3. In vs. 20, we read about men of Cyrene. Go back to Luke 23:26. Do you remember how the gospel came to Cyrene to begin with?
4. Why did a great number turn to the Lord in vs.21?

5. Who was sent to Antioch? Why do you think he was chosen?

6. What was Barnabas' reaction in Antioch?

quote

What's in  
a name?  
That which we  
call a rose  
by any other  
name would  
smell as sweet.

Shakespeare

7. In vs. 25 the partnership between Paul and Barnabas begins. Why did Barnabas go to get Paul?

8. What was the effect of Barnabas and Paul's ministry in Antioch?







## day four: according to ability

*Again, begin your time with Prayer.*

*Today, read Acts 11:27-30.*

### exploring the text

1. Some dark news is given in vs. 27. How did the people of Antioch respond to this news?

**prayer**

Ask the Lord to be more open and flexible to the changes that he desires to bring about your life.

Ask him for patience and compassion with others with whom you sense change needs to take place.

2. How much did each believer give?

3. Who did they give towards?

4. Who did the people of Antioch send to Judea?





## day five: the perfect church

*We finished Acts 11 a little bit early this week.*

*Let's use today to catch up and reflect.*

*Read Psalm 77.*

*Write down your thoughts, maybe your own prayer asking God to bring revival to your life. Take a minute to sit still before Him and wait for Him to speak.*

**verse**

**Psalm 80:3**

Restore us,  
O God;  
let your face  
shine, that we  
may be saved.