

Becoming a Transformational Church

The Gospel in Motion

[Acts 11:19-30](#)

The church at Antioch was born under the duress of widespread Christian persecution, and unbeknownst to its founding members, God used the scattering of believers to spark something entirely new. In Antioch, for the first time, Gentiles openly heard and received the good news of Jesus alongside Jews. Antioch reminds us that God often forms transformational churches not through plans, but through obedience in chaotic moments.

Where might God be using disruption or uncertainty in your life to form something new?

How open are you open to the Spirit leading you beyond familiar people or places?

Antioch became a transformational church because Jesus was clearly at the *center*. Instead of policing boundaries or settling for vague belonging, they oriented their life together around Christ and trusted the Holy Spirit to shape everything else. Barnabas and Paul “dug wells of grace and truth rather than building fences,” inviting thirsty people to drink deeply from the life of Jesus.

What does it practically look like for Jesus—not preferences or traditions—to be our center?

Where might you be tempted to build fences instead of digging wells?

The Antioch church knew their purpose extended beyond themselves. When they heard of the coming famine, they responded with generosity, sending help to believers they may never meet. Their faith was outward-facing, spiritually deep, and socially responsive, showing that transformation always flows toward others.

How does our faith move us to respond to the needs beyond our own community?

What practices might help us become more attentive and generous to where God is already at work?

May the story of Antioch continue to inspire us to be a people centered on Christ, open to the Spirit, and committed to participating in God’s transforming work.