



Groups

Sermon Guide

Acts 11 & 12: *Speedbumps & Detours*

⇒ Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you as you gather and draw you closer to God and one another.

⇒ Allow a few minutes for members of the Group to share a “high” or “low” from their week.

⇒ What struck you, surprised you, or challenged you from the message this past Sunday?

⇒ Why do you think we fail to see the kind of financial faithfulness—and beyond that, financial generosity—in the church today that we see among the believers in Antioch (11:29-28) and have seen throughout Church history in the lives of believers? Consider these stats...

- Currently, on average, only 4.7% of church *members* tithe (give at least 10% of their income back to God through the gospel ministry of the church)
- 77% of those who do tithe (give at least 10%) give between 11-20% of their annual income back to God through the local church
- There is no correlation between size of income and commitment to tithing and generous giving (in other words, it's not simply the well-off who give)

How does failure to trust God in this area impact your spiritual life? Your finances? Your marriage (if you're married)? Your church? Etc.?

⇒ Have someone read Acts 12:1-5.

- What are some *tangible* ways we can show the love of Christ and beauty of the gospel to a culture increasingly indifferent and even hostile to Christianity?
- Specifically—how can *you* do this to your neighbors, coworkers, classmates, community members you regularly interact with? Could you start a ministry on your street? Where you work? At your school?

⇒ In Acts 12, verses 5 & 12, we see the church is gathered and praying for Peter. Throughout Acts the gathered church prays for a movement of God, boldness to be faithful witnesses, deliverance from hindrances to mission, and for the selection of leaders and the advancement of the gospel (for example, see 4:23-31).

- How have you seen prayer unleash God's power in the church? Have you? Do we have a tendency to simply pray for the sick (which is important) and not for God's movement and the advance of the gospel?
- What are some ways we could cultivate a more gospel-centered and mission-centered prayer life at LMBC?

Weekly Questions for One Another

- ☐ What is God saying to you in this Word, in the sermon, and in your walk with him this week?
- ☐ What is God telling you to do? How can we as a Group be part of giving you courage to obey?
- ☐ How can we pray for you? For your neighbors?