



## The Church in Antioch God is Love

May 8–9

Bible Passage: Acts 11:19–20

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### The Big God Story

Just before Jesus returned to heaven, He asked His friends to share God's love with everyone. God wants the whole world to know Him. Something very special happened when Jesus' friends told others about God. The people decided to love God too!

The people decided they wanted to follow Jesus just like His friends followed Him—because they heard the good news about God's love. The good news of God's love (*hug*) was going around the world. When the people in the city of Antioch heard all about God's love, they wanted to follow Him too. The people of Antioch began to share God's love with others.

Soon, Jesus' friends heard all about what was happening in Antioch. They were so happy that more and more people were choosing to love God.

Then a man named Barnabas visited Antioch. He loved God. Barnabas was so happy and excited. He was happy because he got to see all of the people who were filled with God's love. He saw how much they loved and cared for people.

When Barnabas left Antioch, he told more and more people about Jesus. As more people heard about God's love, more and more people decided to follow Jesus. The church grew bigger and bigger. Barnabas needed help teaching all of the people God's Word. Barnabas' friend Paul came to Antioch and helped him teach people about God.

One day the people heard that their neighbors were not going to have enough food to eat. What do you think they did? They collected money and food. They sent the money and the food to their neighbors so that they wouldn't be hungry.

Did the people of Antioch show God's love to others? Yes, they did. They gave people food and money when they needed it. The people cared for others. They showed God's love.

The people of Antioch had been learning all about God's love. They were filled with God's love and they shared God's love.

I know that you help your families and friends too. Last week we talked about ways we can help others. Let's think of some ways that we can help others. Those are all good ways to show God's love to others.

Friends, God loves you. He will fill you with His love. When you have God's love you can share His love with others.

# Family Fun

## Parents,

What would Jesus do? The church in Antioch was one of the first churches to exemplify WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?). The Church gave shelter, food, money, and love to the people who needed it. That sounds a bit like a Mom! So, on Mother's Day, we want to say thanks to all of the moms out there who take care of the family day and night.

## Fun Stuff

This will take a little advanced planning. Make a list of things that someone who is homeless might need. Then take a trip to WalMart, Dollar Tree, or Meijer to collect your things.

Here are some ideas: blanket (*nothing huge and bulky, remember they don't have any storage space at this time in their life*), non-perishable fun foods like peanut butter cheese crackers, nuts, trail mix (*any chocolate melts and makes a mess*), a nice pair of warm gloves (*buy like it's a Christmas gift for a family member*), socks, (*one nice pair is better than a cheap 12 pack*), (*I love my Nordic Socks*), a decent pair of sunglasses (*not Oakleys but not dollar store*), a nice water bottle (*insulated to keep hot, hot and cold, cold*), fun graphic t-shirts (*again, buy like it's a family member*). Don't forget to include a card with a prayer for them.

So you get the idea. You are not changing lives, you are giving a present. So this one may take a few weeks to compile.

## To Go

When you have 10-15 things gathered, put them in a backpack or bag with a handle. (*Your recipient is mobile and needs easy travel items*) Go and find that person on the street or at the end of a freeway ramp. You'll know...let your kids decide. Hand it to them and bless them. You are Antioch.