

# God's Kingdom: Family Where People Are Nurtured & Encouraged – Part 1

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Acts 11:19-26

## The First Commandment

Genesis 1:28 “Be fruitful & multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Century

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

1. As members of God's family, we are to go, sow & grow.  
vv.19-26  
Go where He leads.  
Sow the Gospel seeds.  
Grow ourselves & others in Christ.
2. When we are surrendered to the Lord, He uses us to bring others to salvation. v.21
3. We should be truly interested in what God is doing in the lives of others. vv.22-23  
We should listen for good testimonies.  
We should look for reasons to rejoice.
4. We should seek to encourage others in their walk with Christ, vv.23-26  
even if it means personal risk. (with Saul)  
even if it means personal scrutiny. (true, faithful, whole heart)  
even if it means personal cost. (travel to Tarsus)  
even if it means extended commitment. (a whole year)  
even if it means shared reward. (partnered with Saul)
5. We are to raise up “Little Christs” along the way. v.26

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Century

1. When the earliest Believers were persecuted, they became evangelists & missionaries. vv.19-20  
-to fellow Jews  
-to Gentiles
2. The Lord blessed them, leading to a “great number” of people repenting (turning) from their sin & trusting in Christ. v.21
3. The Mother Church (Jerusalem) heard what was happening in Antioch & sent Barnabas. v.22
4. The Mother Church (Jerusalem) sought to encourage their spiritual children in Antioch by sending Barnabas. vv.22-24  
Barnabas  
-a good man v.24  
-full of the Holy Spirit v.24  
-full of faith v.24  
-named Joseph, but nicknamed “Son of Encouragement” by the Apostles – Acts 4:36  
-he was an encouraging force, an edifying personality, even willing to risk his own reputation in order to stand alongside those he sought to defend (Saul) – Acts 9:27
5. Barnabas was glad to see that the people in Antioch had turned to Christ. v.23  
-they exhibited evidence of God's grace  
-he encouraged them to stay true, faithful to Christ with their whole hearts
6. Barnabas' encouragement fanned the flame of evangelism. v.24  
-“a great number of people were brought to the Lord”
7. Barnabas anticipated the mutual benefit of bringing Saul & the Antioch Believers together. vv.25-26  
-he went to Tarsus & found Saul  
-he brought Saul to Antioch  
-they met with the church in Antioch for a whole year & taught “great numbers of people”
8. The followers of Christ were first called Christians at Antioch. v.26  
-“Little Christs”