

PARENT GUIDE

Lesson 6.3: The Church Strengthens

JOURNEY™

IDENTITY

► SCRIPTURE READING

- » Acts 8:26–40
- » Acts 10–11:18
- » Acts 4:32–37; 9:1–31;
11:19–30; 15:36–41
- » Acts 12:1–19

SUMMARY:

The invitation to believe in Jesus is available to **everyone**. As believers, we are called to share the Gospel with the world around us and welcome into the family of God those who come to Him in faith.

This week, we observed how the early Church was strengthened through the lives and testimonies of several believers.

- **Philip** obediently followed the direction of the Holy Spirit, impacting an entire nation through his witness to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26–40).
- **Peter** overcame religious bias and tradition and was used by God to share the Gospel with Cornelius, affirming God's work in the gentiles (Acts 10–11:18).
- **Barnabas** used his gift of encouragement to build up the Church, supporting both Paul and John Mark in ministry (Acts 4:32–37; 9:1–31; 11:19–30; 15:36–41).
- **Rhoda** persisted in faith and ministry, setting an example for other believers (Acts 12:1–19).

We are inspired to do the same: **Witness** with the help of the Holy Spirit, include all whom God has chosen, **encourage** other believers and **persist** in following God despite what others may do or say. When we do, the Church gets stronger; when the Church gets stronger, everyone benefits.

► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

- » Acts 11:23–24*
- » Acts 10:43
- » Hebrews 11:13–14

► IDENTITY INSIGHT

The invitation to believe in Jesus is available to **everyone**. As the Holy Spirit equips me, I can share the good news of Jesus Christ and welcome others into the family of God.

► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

HELLENIST: a person influenced by Greek language, lifestyle or perspective; one belonging to a specific group of Jews (Acts 6:1)

EVANGELIST: one who shares the good news

WITNESS: one who tells or gives testimony of what he has seen, heard or experienced (John 1:7)

BIAS: developed perspectives that keep one from perceiving or understanding truth

CHRISTIAN: *Christianos* (Christ-follower, replica, miniature); first used as a negative term, it came to mean a follower of Christ.⁸

PERSIST: to assert positively, insist; to firmly continue or be fixed in character, condition or position in spite of opposition, importunity or warning⁹