

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Grace · Community · Mission

# Acts

# Receiving a New Name

#### Warm-Up Questions:

• What are some of the labels you use to describe yourself? (Husband/wife, parent, American, etc.)

#### READ: Acts 11:19-30

#### I. Why We Need A New Name (Acts 11:19-20)

- If we are not looking to God for our identity, we will look to something else to give us meaning and purpose.
  - What are some of the things that you look to (other than God) to give you meaning and purpose?
  - What are some things in your life that have shaped your sense of self?
- Can you think of times in your life when your identity has been threatened? What impact did this have on you?

#### II. How We Receive A New Name (Acts 11:21-23, 26)

• When you first became a believer (if you can remember when), how did your sense of identity change? How has it changed the way you view yourself?

#### III. <u>The Result of Receiving A New Name</u> (Acts 11:23, 26-30)

- Receiving a new name through grace should lead to observable change in our life. How have you observed change in your own life or in the lives of your friends and family after receiving a new name?
- How are you pursuing Christian growth and maturity in your walk with Jesus? What are some ways you can seek to help others along in their walk with Jesus this week?
- What are some tangible ways you can respond to your new identity with radical generosity this week?

22 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them.

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Numbers 6:23-27

### Sermon Discussion Guide--Leader's Copy

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## I. Why We Need A New Name (Acts 11:19-20)

- If we are not looking to God for our identity, we will look to something else to give us meaning and purpose.
  - What are some of the things that you look to (other than God) to give you meaning and purpose?

Examples might include political identity, job accomplishments, your own morality, etc.

• What are some things in your life that have shaped your sense of self?

This could be the family you grew up in, how people treated you, etc.

• Can you think of times in your life when your identity has been threatened? What impact did this have on you?

# For example, were you no longer able to play sports because of an injury? Did you lose your job?

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 How are you pursuing Christian growth and maturity in your walk with Jesus? What are some ways you can seek to help others along in their walk with Jesus this week?

• What are some tangible ways you can respond to your new identity with radical generosity this week?