# The Leading of the Spirit 12. Inspiration to endure hard times Acts 11:19-30

# When things settle down

## God comes to us where we are and offers us His presence in the mess of life

# God’s call is to walk in faith

## Not to solve every problem

## To be a part of the solution

# God is in the middle of it all

## Luke picks up the story from 8:1

### Phoenicia, Cyprus & Antioch had large Jewish populations

#### The witness of the church went into them

## Jews were being shown that Jesus was the Christ

## ‘And also the gentiles’ (18)

## ‘And also the Greeks’ (20)

### The boundary for evangelism was put out even further

#### For that they changed their language

##### From ‘Jesus is the Christ/Messiah’ to ‘Jesus is the Lord’

### This worried the church in Jerusalem

#### They sent Barnabas who sees God at work and grace being lived out

## God’s mission to the world is more urgent than the church’s theological understanding

# God does not exempt Christians from world suffering

## God could save Christians from all natural disasters

### But He doesn’t

## The response of the church was some practical help to get them through it

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# When things settle down

## What plans do you have for ‘when things settle down’?

## When do you think things will settle down?

## How do you plan your time to take into account busy and not-so-busy periods?

# Being part of the solution

## How do you try to be part of the solution to problems at work? In the home? At church?

### How does a family or organisation foster this mindset?

# God’s boundaries for the gospel

## Why do you think the church was having problems with the people being called to follow Christ?

### How could they come to terms with it ‘JOYFULLY’ rather than reluctantly?

#### What did they need to take on board?

#### What did they need to lose?

## How far do you agree that the gospel needs to be shaped to the hearers?

### How significant is it that Luke says Greeks ‘believed and turned to the Lord’ rather than accepted Jesus as the Messiah?

# Christians responding to disaster

## How should Christians respond to other churches in difficulties?

### Should we try to meet the needs of all?

#### If not, on what basis should we choose who to help?

### In what ways is this less than the response of the good Samaritan?