

# The Welcome Initiative, Week 1

## Community Group Discussion Guide

1. We asked a question or two last week about “what God might be up to in our church.” Do you recall some of your answers? Briefly talk about those again, or answer the question for the first time if you weren’t here. What excites you about what you see happening?
2. If we learn anything from scripture, the reality is that if God is up to something new (as he was in the story from Acts 11), there will be opposition to it. Just looking at the story of the early church, from where does opposition to the movement of God usually come?
3. Now. Here’s a harder question. Just assuming that we are all human, and that as humans we like our comfort zones... Is there anything that God might want to do in our church that people would struggle with? That we might even oppose, even though God was doing it? Is our church capable of missing what God is up to?

4. Read Luke 9:49-50.

Why do you think the disciples “tried to stop him?” Did they have a good reason for doing so?

Check out 9:51-54. How would you characterize the disciples’ overall attitude in these passages?

What do you think of Jesus’ reply, “For he who is not against you is for you?” Do you agree? I mean I know it’s Jesus saying it, but would you agree with someone who wasn’t Jesus and said this?

What is the difference between the Disciples’ attitude here and Jesus’?

5. How would you characterize Barnabas’ attitude in Acts 11:19-24? How is that different from what we see in the disciples in the story from Luke 9? Who do you know who epitomizes the Barnabas attitude?
6. Spend some time in prayer, that our church would be ready for what the Lord has in store for us!