



BE A BARNABAS

This week we will take a look at one of the great examples of encouragement found anywhere in Scripture. We will be studying the life of Barnabas. Barnabas literally means “Son of Encouragement”. God expects His people to encourage one another in everything and at all times. Think back on the people who really have encouraged us and believed in us. Those were indeed very special people. God needs many more people who take the time to encourage others. There may be some of your teammates by week six on the field that need your encouragement. Maybe some of them could use some extra work and just maybe we should be out there not only encouraging them but also helping them.

As we study about Barnabas may we take the time to be a Barnabas for our coaches and our teammates.

Sunday: Read Acts 4:36-37

This is our first introduction to Barnabas. We learn he was from Cyprus and his real name was Joseph.

- 1. How can you earn the nickname of Barnabas on and off the field?**
- 2. What did Barnabas do with the money from the selling of his field?**
- 3. An encourager is a giver. How can we be an encourager in this light?**

Monday: Read Acts 9:26-30

When Saul had his experience on the Damascus Road and became a champion of the Gospel instead of one who wanted to stop the Gospel by persecuting Christians, not too many people were sure of his conversion. As a matter of fact even the apostles in Jerusalem were afraid of him and did not believe he was converted. Then Barnabas came into the picture.

- 1. Why do you think the apostles did not believe Saul had been converted?**

2. **What did Barnabas do for Saul?**
3. **What did this enable Saul to do?**
4. **How can we be a Barnabas in a similar situation?**

Tuesday: Read Acts 13:1-3, 42

The center for the Gospel outreach to the Gentiles was the church at Antioch. Barnabas and Saul were set apart there and ordained to do God's work. In ancient times names were listed by importance. The most important name in a group was always listed first. Notice the change that takes place while they are on this missionary journey to Cyprus.

1. **What was the work Barnabas and Saul were called to do for the Lord?**
2. **Look at verse 9, Saul is now changed from the Jewish name Saul to the more Roman name Paul. From here forward Saul is now Paul.**
3. **What happens in verse 42 with the listing of the names?**
4. **Often times it is not about us but others and helping them reach their potential. What does the name order signify and what does that say to us in how we live on and off the field?**

Wednesday: Read Acts 11:19-30

News of the activity of the church at Antioch reached the church at Jerusalem. They needed someone to check out what was going on in Antioch and send back a report. They chose Barnabas to go. We find on his arrival that Barnabas saw the evidence of God working in their midst and the Bible says he was glad. True to his name, Barnabas encouraged the people to remain true to the Lord. Here we get a little insight into the character of Barnabas. We are told he is a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith. We see that indeed the church was growing! Barnabas knew that there was someone who needed to be at Antioch with him, someone who could add a great deal to this mission minded church, so he goes to Paul's hometown of Tarsus and brings him back to Antioch. For a year they met with the church and teach them. A little side note, this is the first place believers were called Christians which literally means "little Christs".

A famine was foretold and the church at Antioch responded to the need by taking up an offering and sending it to Jerusalem by Barnabas and Paul.

- 1. Why was Barnabas sent to check out the church at Antioch?**
- 2. Was he true to his name? How?**
- 3. What did we find out about the character of Barnabas? Can people say the same about us?**
- 4. Why did Barnabas go and get Paul?**
- 5. One of the keys to encouraging others is to believe in others. How can we be a Barnabas on and off the field?**
- 6. Think of the people who have believed in you and encouraged you with that belief. Take a few minutes to call, send a text or email thanking them.**

Thursday: Read Acts 15:1-29

Some teachers from Jerusalem came to Antioch and began to teach the Gentiles they must be circumcised. A sharp disagreement arose between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians. Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to plead the case of the Gentile believers. A compromise was hammered out between the disagreeing parties.

- 1. Why do you think the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas?**
- 2. How much weight would they carry with the Jerusalem Church? Why?**
- 3. How did this meeting open up the Gentile world for the spread of the Gospel? What role did Barnabas play?**

Friday: Read Acts 15:36-41

We have learned this week in order to be an encourager, we must believe in others. We need to see their potential and not give up on others. We must always look for the best. It came time for Paul and Barnabas to go out on another missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them, but Paul was against it because Mark went home during the first trip. God used Barnabas to believe in Mark which instead of one trip we now had two. Paul and Silas went one way and Barnabas and Mark went another. Mark later was restored to Paul's good graces and became a valuable member of the team. This same Mark, scholars believe is the writer of the Gospel of Mark.

- 1. Has anyone ever let us down? Did we see the best in them? Why or why not?**
- 2. The Gospel spread faster because Barnabas believed in Mark. How?**
- 3. Mark went on to great things for the Kingdom of God. What role did Barnabas play in that? Is there someone we need to believe the best and encourage them today? Who?**

Saturday: Read 1Corinthians 9:1-6, Colossians 4:10

Today we see that God blesses the encourager and the one who is encouraged.

- 1. What is Paul's seal as an apostle?**
- 2. What must Paul and Barnabas do in order to minister?**
- 3. How far had Mark come in Paul's eyes?**
- 4. Take this opportunity to find someone on the field and someone off the field you need to be a Barnabas for. Ask God to bring these people to you to encourage.**