

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 19-25, 2021

## “BARNABAS: SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

How do you respond to appreciation? Do you usually find yourself shy away from it? Ignore it? Doubt it? Reject it? Accept it? Why do you react in that particular way?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Acts 4:36-37. Describe how Barnabas responded to the needs of others even despite him not being a native-born Jew. Was there a time in your life when you did good to someone who mistreated you or didn't care about you? Or the other way around when someone whom you're not in good terms with suddenly did something good towards you?
2. How would you define generosity (not only in terms of money)? How would that look like in practice and what would you do intentionally to grow in generosity?
3. Read Acts 9:19-31 and 11:19-26. When Paul was rejected, Barnabas comes alongside to encourage him. He does it in three ways: he believes in Paul, he advocates for Paul and he goes and finds/looks for Paul. What excuses could Barnabas have given not to help Paul? What were the risks? What are some excuses that *you give* to not believe in fellow believers and take a chance on them? Why?
4. What do you think is the purpose of God putting someone on the limelight? What do you think is the God's purpose for putting someone in the shadows? In what areas of life do you feel like you're playing a starring role, and in what areas do you feel like you're playing a supporting role? Why?
5. Consider how intentional Barnabas was with Paul. Share about a specific relationship where you need to be intentional (for the glory of God and the application of the gospel) with someone in your life.

6. Read Acts 15:33-41. What were your initial thoughts and response to the conflict of Paul and Barnabas? Do real Christians ever strongly disagree on some things? What do you think is vital to remember during seasons of conflict especially as it relates to fellow brethren?

7. What are some things that we can learn about this situation, especially when we read of Paul calling for John Mark at the end of his (Paul's) life in 2 Timothy 4:11 to be encouraged by him?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

*The church is not built on the gifts and talents of a few but on the sacrifices of many.*

- ☐ I am so thankful for my salvation, not by law keeping but by the grace of Jesus Christ!
- ☐ As a recipient of God's grace, I will gladly extend grace to others.
- ☐ I will be sensitive for opportunities to serve others even if it means being in the shadows.
- ☐ I will learn to disagree with others in a spirit of grace, kindness and self-control.
- ☐ I will be an encourager!

*Don't forget to:*

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for your Barnabas and for opportunities to become a Barnabas to others.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

September 20. Acts 4:23-37, 9:26-30.

September 21. Acts 1:1-11.

September 22. Galatians 6:1-10.

September 23. Colossians 3:1-14.

September 24. Luke 5:17-26.

September 25. 1 Chronicles 29:6-19.

September 26. Acts 12:1-17.