



Welcome + Opening Prayer

Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

See passage printed on the back of this page.

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

How do we become a community marked by encouragement?

Explore + Apply

1. What is a time when a word of encouragement would have meant so much to you but it didn't come? How did that feel? What is a time when someone encouraged you? How did that feel? How did that impact you? Is there "a Barnabas" in your life right now? (The name Barnabas means "son of encouragement.")
2. Do your relationships tend to be purely social? Or do you tend to do most of your learning and decision-making privately, without the input of others? Is the door open for a relationship with someone who could speak truth in love? What are some practical steps you can take right now to have a relationship with "a Barnabas" in your life?
3. What barriers prevent you from having a ministry of encouragement to others? Do you tend more to speak truth but without tact or love? Do you tend to only affirm and not address the selfish tendency causing damage in a friend's life? What are some ways the Holy Spirit ("the Encourager" as He is called in John 14:15-27) could grow your ability to speak truth lovingly?

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace as we enjoy a unique time of fellowship with God made possible through Christ's servant leadership.

Pray

- Praise Jesus Christ whose sent the Holy Spirit, our best and closest encourager.
- Pray that we would as a community learn to speak truth lovingly from the Holy Spirit.
- Pray God's Kingdom come as he seeks to encourage those in our community, city, and world.

GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*week of Feb 11
week of Feb 25
week of Mar 11*

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

13:1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.