

12 MAY
SUNDAY
2019



SPRING SMALL GROUPS

Coldwater Group

Mondays 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Scott Carpenter
517.617.5438

Bronson Group

Thursdays 3:00 p.m.

Contact: JIm Erwin
517.756.8001

Tijuana Fellowship Group

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Paul Alger
517.677.0444

East Gilead Group

Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Greg Maartin
419.345.4022

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Extend the KINGDOM

Small Group Discussion Guide

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to use this study to encourage your faith in Him.

In our May Day series, we have been looking at examples of people in the Bible who faced dangerous and discouraging situations, circumstances where their faith was being tested. Today, let's look at a "behind the scenes" believer who was used by God to encourage discouraged believers. His name was Barnabas.

- I. Read [Acts 4:36-37](#). Why do you suppose the Apostles nicknamed Joseph "the son of encouragement"? Do you have a "Barnabas" in your life who regularly encourages you? When have you stepped up to encourage someone who was down and discouraged?
- II. Read [Acts 9:26-27](#). Why were the Apostles afraid of Saul? What did Barnabas do to remedy the situation? Has God ever used you to dispel fear between people and bring them together?
- III. Read [Acts 11:19-26](#). Because of persecution and the death of Stephen, the Christians at Jerusalem spread out and began to preach in many new places. Why do you suppose the disciples sent Barnabas to Antioch? Notice his reputation in verse 24. Why do you think Barnabas sought out Saul at this point? Why is the title "Christians" significant here in Antioch?
- IV. Now read [Acts 13:1-5](#). The Holy Spirit sets apart Saul and Barnabas as missionaries. Notice where they began. And, who did they bring along to help? (Note [Acts 12:25](#))
- V. Finally, read [Acts 15:36-41](#). Do you recall the disciples being in disagreement over Paul back in chapter nine? Remember who remedied the situation? Now it's Paul, disagreeing with Barnabas over John Mark. What happens? Who do you think was right? At this point, Barnabas disappears from the pages of the New Testament, but not John Mark. Read [2 Timothy 4:11](#). At the end of his life, the Apostle Paul calls for Mark's help, in part because of Barnabas, the son of encouragement. God also uses him to write one of the four gospels.

Ask God to heighten your awareness to someone who is down or discouraged. Why not be a Barnabas and come along side that person and encourage their life?

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