



June 28, 2020

Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Matt challenged us all to be encouragers.

Being an encourager is more than just saying encouraging words like “that was a good try” or “you look nice today”. Being a true encourager means that you remind someone of the bigger call on their lives, leading by example.

Matt pointed out several examples of encouragers in the Bible but the one whose name actually means “son of encouragement” is Barnabas.

When you think of the word encouragement what comes to mind?

Who has been your biggest encourager? How has that changed you?

Into the Word

Let’s look at some other examples of Barnabas being a true encourager.

Read Acts 9:20–31 and 11:19–30.

Imagine these two passages devoid of Barnabas’s presence. How would that have changed things?

How is Barnabas described in these passages? What did his presence bring to these precarious situations?

How did Barnabas’s encouragement develop Paul and the early church?

What would it look like to be “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” (11:24)?

What risks were involved for Barnabas in these situations?

What do Barnabas’s actions tell you about his faith? About the God in which he believed?

How would you define encouragement based on Barnabas’s actions here?

Who could use the encouragement that would come from your presence and involvement on their frontline? What would that look like?

Apply The Word

Take time this week to meditate on the faith of Barnabas. Where do you need to be sent? Where do you need to speak up and act? Where do you need to step out in faith? Where do you need to take a risk and endure? After meditating, go!