



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Barnabas: Encouraging Others*

Text: Acts

Service Date: August 3, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Can you think of a person in your life who has acted like a “Barnabas” for you? What impact did their encouragement have on your faith or life direction?
- When you have a burden that weighs heavy upon your heart, how do you still find a way to encourage others? Has your tendency been to only encourage others when your life is going well?

Sermon Discussion

- Why do you think the apostles chose to rename Joseph to Barnabas (“Son of Encouragement”)? What does this tell us about the early church's values?
- Barnabas gave sacrificially and humbly (Acts 4:36-37). What motivates someone to give without recognition, and how does that differ from giving to be noticed?
- What do you think it would be like if everyone who attended Tri-Village had the same sacrificial attitude as Barnabas? Is there something in your life holding you back from living the same way that he did- sacrificially?
- Why do you think Barnabas was willing to believe in Saul/Paul when others were skeptical? What risks are involved in encouraging someone's spiritual potential?
- What would your week look like if you started intentionally planning to encourage someone specifically each week (and do it without recognition)?

- Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement over John Mark. When is it difficult to extend grace to someone, and how do you discern when it's appropriate?
- Have you ever been given a second chance like John Mark? How did that act of grace change your life?
- Of the three forms of encouragement shown by Barnabas—generosity, spiritual growth, and grace—which one do you find easiest to offer? Which is hardest?
- The sermon challenged us to take one simple action of encouragement this week. What will your one action be—toward whom, in what way, and when (making sure you don't procrastinate)? (What's one step you could take to support their spiritual development?)