



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Never Alone

Acts 15:36-41 (NLT)

Context for the Week

This week's message in the Overcome series focused on relational adversity, particularly through the lens of John Mark in **Acts 15:36–41**. Mark had previously abandoned Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, which led to a sharp disagreement between the two leaders when Barnabas wanted to give Mark a second chance. Paul disagreed strongly, and the disagreement caused Paul and Barnabas to separate.

From Mark's perspective, this could have been an extremely painful moment—rejected by Paul, doubted in his calling, and caught between two respected leaders. But Mark did not let this setback define him. Over time, he grew, matured, and became a trusted co-laborer in the gospel again (see **2 Timothy 4:11**). Mark's story teaches us that adversity in relationships can be overcome, and that we are never alone in moments of failure, rejection, or tension. God's grace and purpose continue.

Scriptures

- **Acts 15:36–41** (NLT) – The sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas about Mark
- **2 Timothy 4:11** (NLT) – Paul later calls Mark helpful to his ministry
- **Romans 12:18** (NLT) – Do all you can to live in peace with everyone
- **Proverbs 4:23** (NLT) – Guard your heart above all else
- **Hebrews 13:5** (NLT) – God will never leave you nor abandon you
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9–10** (NLT) – Two are better than one; support in hardship
- **Philippians 4:6–7** (NLT) – Pray about everything; God gives peace

Sermon Reflection Questions

- What did you learn about Mark's journey through rejection and restoration?
- How would you feel in Mark's shoes—watching trusted leaders argue about your worth?
- What does this teach us about second chances and spiritual growth?
- Where have you seen God redeem a relationship or failure over time?

Discussion Questions

Question 1 – Relational Adversity

- What kind of relational adversity did Mark experience in **Acts 15**?
- How do you think it affected him emotionally or spiritually?
- Have you ever been caught in the middle of someone else's disagreement?
- Why do moments like this feel so personally painful?

Question 2 – Choose God (instead of blaming)

- How might Mark have been tempted to blame Paul, Barnabas, God, or even himself?
- What would it look like for Mark to choose God instead of harboring resentment?
- How can we protect our hearts (**Proverbs 4:23**) when others misunderstand or reject us?
- When have you had to choose trust in God over bitterness in a broken relationship?

Question 3 – Know You Are Never Alone (instead of isolating)

- What do you think kept Mark from walking away completely?
- How does **Hebrews 13:5** encourage someone who feels abandoned or ashamed?
- When you face relational rejection, where do you turn?
- How can prayer (**Philippians 4:6–7**) ground you when you feel alone?

Question 4 – Find Support (instead of giving up)

- Barnabas stood up for Mark. How important was that support?
- Who has played a “Barnabas role” in your life during hard times?
- How can community help restore someone after relational adversity?
- What does **Ecclesiastes 4:9–10** teach us about the value of companionship?

Question 5 – Trusting God and Growing Through Relational Adversity

- What does Mark's story teach us about growth and redemption?
- How might God use rejection or disappointment to develop our character?
- Paul later affirmed Mark (**2 Timothy 4:11**). How can that give us hope?
- What is one area where God might be growing you through past or present relational pain?

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Invite group members to reflect on a time when they felt overlooked, misunderstood, or rejected by others. Encourage them to consider how God may be using that adversity for growth. Close in prayer, asking for healing, resilience, and the faith to believe in redemption—like Mark's.