

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK



Sandra Heim | Peru

PRAY

- for a peaceful solution to political unrest in Peru.
- for upcoming teaching opportunities in the seminary, Bible studies and more.

PRAISE

- The Life and Hope Ministries (Prenatal Center) was recently remodeled. Many new volunteers are being trained.



Handout: 03/19/23
Study: 03/26/23

Best Church Ever

Paul and Barnabas traveled together through the island of Cyprus and the province of Asia (modern Asia Minor) preaching the gospel in the first missionary journey (Acts 13). The name Barnabas means “son of encouragement,” and encouragement was his first function in Paul’s life. When the newly converted Saul/Paul came to the Christians at Jerusalem, they were afraid of him. But Barnabas built a bridge between Saul and the other Christians, vouching for the reality of his faith and ministry (Acts 9:26–27).

Later, news reached Jerusalem of a burgeoning church in Syrian Antioch, and Barnabas was sent to encourage the believers there (Acts 11:22). Many people began coming to the Lord and joining the church, so Barnabas sought out Paul and, finding him, brought him to Antioch. The biblical account calls Barnabas “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” (Acts 11:24). While Paul and Barnabas were still in Antioch, a prophet named Agabus foretold a famine, and the church determined to send relief to the brothers living in Judea (verses 27–29). They sent Paul and Barnabas to deliver the gift (verse 30).

After that, the Holy Spirit chose Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries (Acts 13:2), and the church of Antioch sent them off. Paul and Barnabas took John Mark along as a helper and traveled through many Gentile areas with the gospel. They were “men who . . . risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 15:25). Halfway through their journey, Mark left Paul and Barnabas, and this became a point of contention later. As they planned a second missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas disagreed on whether to take Mark again. Paul was determined not to bring him, due to his forsaking them previously. Barnabas, ever the encourager, was unwilling to leave John Mark behind. A “sharp disagreement” arose between them, and they parted ways. From that point on, Barnabas traveled with John Mark, and Paul chose Silas as his companion in ministry (Acts 15:36–41). Later, we see indications that the rift was healed, and Paul considered Mark “helpful” in the ministry (2 Timothy 4:11).

From the relationship of Paul and Barnabas we can draw an important lesson. Here were two godly men, loved by the churches, filled with the Spirit, enduring persecution together, seeing people saved, and enjoying an effective ministry. Yet they were fallible and did not see eye to eye on everything. They quarreled and parted ways. Even the best and most faithful among us are prone to interpersonal conflicts and mistakes. We are all fallen human beings. The ministries of both men continued—in fact, the number of missionary teams doubled! God can use even our disagreements to further His work.

KEY VERSE

Acts 4:36 (NKJV)

“And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 4:32-37, 5:1-11; Matthew 19:16-22, 29-30

Be A Generous Giver

1. What words would you use to describe the church that Barnabas was a part of?
2. Why do you think Barnabas was such a generous giver? What made him different than Ananias and Sapphira or the young man in Matthew 19?

Tuesday: Acts 9:23-29; Ephesians 2:19-22; Proverbs 17:17

Be A Faithful Friend

3. How was Barnabas a faithful friend to Saul in today's reading?
4. Who in our church needs you to be their faithful friend?

Wednesday: Acts 11:19-26; Hebrews 10:24-25; I Thess. 5:11-15

Be A Committed Encourager

5. What did Barnabas do to encourage the church at Antioch? What did Barnabas do to encourage Saul?
6. List people in your life for who you will commit to be an encourager.

Thursday: Acts 13:1-5; John 2:5, 15:14; Hebrews 11:8

Be An Obedient Servant

7. What words would you use to describe the church at Antioch?
8. How did Barnabas demonstrate his obedience to God?
9. If God tells you to do something and you do it, how does that impact the church family? If you are disobedient, how does that impact the church family?

Friday: Acts 13:13; 15:36-41; II Tim. 4:11; Col. 3:12-13

Be A Forgiving Person

10. What dispute did Paul and Barnabas have in Acts 15? How did God use even their dispute to further His kingdom?
11. The Bible doesn't specify why John Mark left Paul and Barnabas. Why do you think that Barnabas wanted to give John Mark a second chance? How is this consistent with what we know about Barnabas?
12. Is there someone at Capital that you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from? How can the example of Barnabas help you today?