

	To Be Like Barnabas
 BIG IDEA	Your greatest work may be a person. God has placed people in your life on purpose, and He invites you to encourage, invest in, and help them become who He created them to be.
 ICE BREAKER	1. Who is someone who encouraged or believed in you at an important time in your life? 2. If someone gave you a nickname based on your character, what would you hope it would be? 3. What is one small act of kindness that made a lasting difference in your life?
 MAIN POINTS	Barnabas was known for encouragement. When Luke introduces Barnabas in Acts 4, he doesn't begin by highlighting his accomplishments—he highlights his character. The apostles gave Joseph the nickname Barnabas, meaning “son of encouragement.” While Barnabas was generous enough to sell a field and give the proceeds to the church, his greatest contribution wasn't the gift he gave. It was the way he consistently invested in people. <i>Pastor DJ reminded us that our greatest work may not be something we accomplish, but someone we encourage.</i> Barnabas saw what others couldn't see. When Saul encountered Jesus, most believers only saw his past. Barnabas saw God's work in his life. He courageously brought Saul to the apostles and helped open the door for his ministry. Because Barnabas believed in him, Saul—who became Paul—went on to become one of the greatest leaders of the early church and wrote much of the New Testament. Sometimes God changes the world by using ordinary people to believe in someone before anyone else does. Barnabas saw potential where others saw failure. When John Mark walked away from ministry, Paul wanted to move on without him. Barnabas refused to give up on him. He chose encouragement over disappointment and invested in John's future instead of focusing on his failure. Years later, Paul admitted that John Mark had become invaluable to the ministry. Barnabas reminds us that encouragement often means believing in people before they believe in themselves. “Pastor DJ shared two simple memories of his dad—finding him early in the morning on his knees praying and hearing him pray over Thanksgiving dinner. Those moments weren't flashy, but they gave him a deep sense of stability and became a lasting example of a life that quietly pointed him toward Jesus.”
 DISCUSS	1. Why do you think Barnabas became known as the “son of encouragement” instead of being remembered primarily for his generosity? 2. Is there someone in your life who needs another chance or someone who simply needs someone to believe in them?

	3. Which of the three circles Pastor DJ talked about—family, coworkers/classmates/neighbors, or unexpected encounters—is easiest for you?
 NEXT STEP	Jesus First Barnabas became an encourager because he first followed Jesus. Ask God to help you see people through His eyes instead of through their past. People Always God has already placed people in your circles, your family, friends, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and even people you'll meet unexpectedly this week. Ask God each morning, “Who have You placed in my path today that needs encouragement?” Then take one intentional step—send a text, invite someone to church, buy lunch, or simply listen well. Made for More Ask God to show you one person He is inviting you to invest in over the long haul. Your greatest legacy may not be something you build, it may be someone you help become who God created them to be.
 SCRIPTURE	Acts 4:32-37, Acts 9:26-27, Acts 15:36-39, 2 Timothy 4:11
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as Pastor Shan shares the good news of the Gospel and invites us to take our next step in following Jesus.

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com