

Becoming a Barnabas

Will Browning

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In today's message, Will Browning talks about the power of encouragement and shows us the example of Barnabas who encouraged Paul when he began his ministry. For today's group discussion, however, we're going to look at another encourager in the Bible who served as an incredible leader in his own right - Moses, who leveraged his influence for the sake of his replacement, Joshua. Can you imagine the pressure Joshua must have felt? He was to follow one of the greatest prophets and leaders of the Bible - a man who had seen God face to face - so it's no wonder that he was encouraged seven times to "be strong and courageous"! To get your conversation started today, let everyone share about one person who's served as an encourager to them - what did that person do to help them along?

BIG THOUGHT

If we'll take the time and effort to encourage the people around us, God can use us to help them faithfully achieve the "good works" (Eph. 2:10) for which they were created.

Dig

1. Read Deuteronomy 31:1-2. It's safe to say that by the time Moses is giving this talk to the nation of Israel, Joshua already knew that he was going to be tasked with leading the people to live in the Promised Land. If you were Joshua, what would you have been feeling as you listened to Moses begin his speech? Have you ever been in a similar situation of knowing your responsibilities were going to change before the people around you knew (maybe at a job, being chosen to start on an athletic team, expecting a child, etc.)? If so, share what that felt like...
2. Now read v. 3. What did Moses say about the role of the Lord? What about the role of the people? Joshua's role? And who does Moses say put Joshua in his position of leadership? Why is this important to say in front of both Joshua and the people?

3. Read v. 4-6. What does Moses remind Joshua and the people in v. 4? How is that an encouragement as he gives them their new instructions in v. 5? What does Moses apparently believe the Israelites will need to faithfully follow God's directions (v. 6)? How important is it to be honest when we're trying to encourage someone? Explain.
4. Look at v. 7. How is Moses utilizing the power of public affirmation? Why is it valuable? What in Moses' statement shows the level of his faith in Joshua? Have you ever publicly expressed confidence in someone else and had it backfire? Share with the group if you can...
5. Read v. 8. Moses' encouragement to Joshua is ultimately based on what? Has anyone ever encouraged you in this same way to follow God's direction for you life? What happened?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for the specific people who have encouraged you to follow Him more closely. Then ask Him to help you have the awareness and courage to actively encourage the people He puts in your path this week.

Daily Readings

Day 1: Hebrews 10:24

Day 2: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Day 3: Proverbs 27:17

Day 4: Proverbs 12:25

Day 5: Galatians 6:2

Day 6: 1 Peter 4:8

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 31:7



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1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC
www.gatewaybc.com