

Screenshots of Jesus

A companion study to the podcasts of Amber Albee Swenson on the
life of Christ through the lens of Mark

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Barnabas

Read Acts 4:32-37.

1. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, says that at this point in the early Christian church the believers were one in heart and mind. That describes total unity of purpose. What was the purpose of the early Christian church?

2. Imagine being in that kind of community! What qualities and traits are absent from that kind of community?

3. Verses 36-37 introduce us to Barnabas. What do we learn about Barnabas from these few verses?

4. Now read Acts 9:26-27. Saul was a new convert to Christianity. Previously he had been a Pharisee who was vehemently opposed to the apostles and their message about Christ. After Jesus appeared to him, the Holy Spirit ignited his faith, and he became an outspoken advocate for Christ. The believers in Jerusalem were understandably afraid of him. What did Barnabas do?

5. What does this show you about Barnabas?

Read Acts 11:19-26.

6. What does the Holy Spirit reveal to us about Barnabas in this portion of Scripture?

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
Gal. 6:9

7. Acts 4:32 told us Barnabas was from Cyprus. Why did it make sense to send him to Antioch?

8. What was Barnabas' purpose in bringing Saul to Antioch?

9. Acts 11:30 reports that Saul and Barnabas took a gift to Jerusalem from Antioch. In Acts 12:25 Luke tells us that when they completed their mission they returned to Antioch with John Mark. Read Acts 13:1-5.

How did Saul and Barnabas get direction for their mission and work?

What was John's role?

12. When it comes to work in the kingdom of God, how do we know what we should do and when? Who should we run our ideas by before starting something?

Big idea: A big part of leading is encouraging others and walking alongside them.

Action plan: Ask God to show you who has encouraged you. Text them or send them a letter to let them know you appreciate them. And ask God to show you who you can encourage.

Prayer: Heavenly Father thank you for showing us Barnabas' character. Thank you for putting people in our lives to encourage us, too. Help us to be on the lookout for people we can encourage and make us bold and willing to do so. In Jesus' name, amen.