

## ACTS – Barnabas: Son of Encouragement

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Acts 11:19-30

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **God can use our culture and backgrounds to help bring Jesus to others**

\*How have you seen this to be true?

\*What background, culture, experiences, etc. do you have that would make you a good candidate to introduce people to Jesus.

#### **Barnabas saw the grace of God in the believers at Antioch**

Read and discuss Acts 11:19-24 (NRSV)

*19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. 20 But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. 21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord.*

\*What do you see in this passage about God? About people?

\*What does Barnabas find in the Antioch church?

\*What does 'the grace of God'(v.23) look like? Where have you seen this in a group of believers? What does it mean to 'remain faithful...with steadfast devotion'?

#### **Barnabas and Saul mentored, taught, and encouraged the believers to live God's way**

Read and discuss Acts 11:25-26 (NRSV)

*25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they associated with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.*

\*How can we learn from the example of Barnabas and Saul in Antioch?

\*What is the significance of the disciples now being called Christians?

\*What are the implications for us of being followers of King Jesus? Are these any different than being a believer or having a savior?

#### **Barnabas was a 'son of encouragement'**

Sometimes we need more than teaching, we need an encourager.

\*What kinds of things does a good encourager do? How is this different from a mentor or teacher?

\*Who has been this kind of 'alongsider' for you in your faith? What has it meant to you?

\*Who do you feel more like right now, a Barnabas, a ready encourager, or a Saul, desiring to be poured into? What step might the Spirit be leading you to take?