

**Week 3: How to bring out the best in your friend**  
**Pastor Peter Smith (2-28-16)**

***“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Prov. 18:24***

Here are some famous friends!

- Gilligan / Skipper
- Beatles: John, Paul, Ringo, George
  - Yogi / Boo boo
- Costello / Abbott
- Wayne / Garth

**A look at the life of Barnabas**

**Who was Barnabas?**

**Background:**

- Acts 4:36: first time he is mentioned
- He was a friend of the Church. How?  
Barnabas was a source of encouragement.

**In Fact, #1 in your notes:**

**1. His name means “Son of Encouragement”**

\*only one out of 30x is he called by his Hebrew name Joseph! People recognized him by how he lived life.

**So, who was Barnabas?**

**2. He supported the church financially**

***“One of the believers was named Joseph. The apostles called him Barnabas, a name that means “one who encourages others.” Joseph sold a field he owned. He brought the money and gave it to the apostles.”***

***-Acts 15:36-38***

- Do you know the Bible says we all have a part to play financially? How are you doing?

**Barnabas is an encourager, he is generous, he is #3:**

### 3. A **true friend** to the Apostle Paul

a. He was one of the first to associate with Paul and brought out the best in him. **Read** Acts 9:26-28.

“When he (Paul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.”

b. He risked his reputation by taking a chance on Paul because he believed in him. Sounds like Jesus!

### 4. He helped Paul perfect his **Spiritual gifts**

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” -Acts 11:25-26

#### A. Paul was a:

1. **TEACHER!** Remember, he knew the Bible. A Pharisee, much of Bible was memorized!
2. Acts 11:25-6: READ: “Taught great numbers”
3. Barnabas gave Paul a chance. Sometimes that’s all a person needs...Hey Paul, Let’s go to Antioch and teach people about Christ”
4. Do you have a friend that needs someone to take a chance on their reputation, their job skills, their history?

#### B. He helped Paul **develop** his ministry

1. they traveled together for ministry
2. Barnabas trained Paul for a year
3. Overtime, Paul’s influence became greater than Barnabas’

#### 4. Barnabas was also a friend of Mark

- a. They were cousins
- b. They traveled (with Paul) to minister
- c. Then Mark left to go home

#### a. This caused friction in his friendship with Paul

Read Acts 15:36-38

“Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.”

#### b. Barnabas & Paul had a falling out!

Vs. 39: “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus...”

- Barnabas was committed to helping a friend, and stood up for what is right

#### c. Big Problem: The church didn’t understand all that happened.

“but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”  
-Acts 15:40-41

Often when disputes arise, only one side gets out. So people form opinions, talk about the drama on FB, watercooler chats, etc. Remember, there’s always 2 sides to every story!

#### d. True Friendship comes with a cost!

\*\*It cost Barnabas his reputation and standing—he is not mentioned anymore in the book of Acts!

John 15:34: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

- Jesus died for you and I, his friends
- Who are you willing to die for?  
To cover their back when times are tough?

**Conclusion:**

1. It took a Barnabas, an encourager, to reach Paul and Mark. What might God want to accomplish thru your friends?
2. Will you be a Barnabas to your friends this week?

**Pray for our Friends Day Invites**