



Church Together

Barnabas: An Example Of Encouragement

19th September 2021





Welcome

Welcome to **Church Together**.

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do. whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together.

Our flexible Sunday worship patterns blend together on - line services, home deliveries and emailed copies of Church Together.

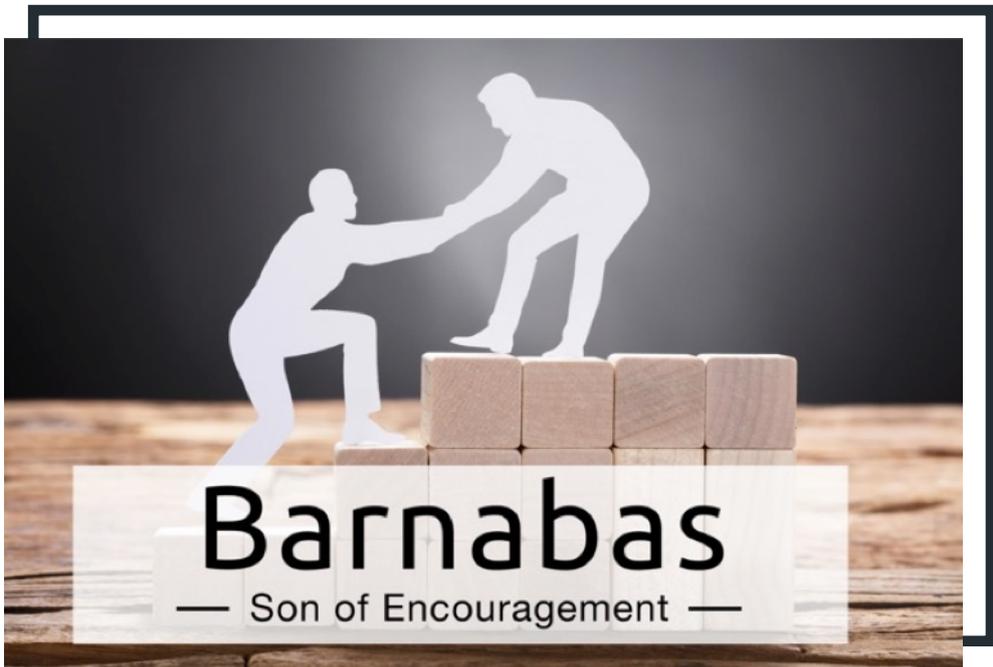
Today's service will be looking at: **Acts 9 v. 26 - 31**

The theme for today's service is: **Barnabas: An Example Of Encouragement.**



Today's service that is set out in this edition of **Church Together** is looking at **Barnabas: An Example Of Encouragement** and will include a time of **Communion**.

We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Sunday Service** and that you would indeed **Be An Encourager To Others**.



Barnabas

— Son of Encouragement —

Call To Worship

Psalm 113 v. 1 – 5 NLT

Praise the Lord!

Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord.

Praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Forever and ever.

Everywhere—from east to west—

Praise the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is high above the nations;

His glory is far greater than the heavens.

Who can be compared with the Lord our

God,

Who is enthroned on high?



Opening Prayer

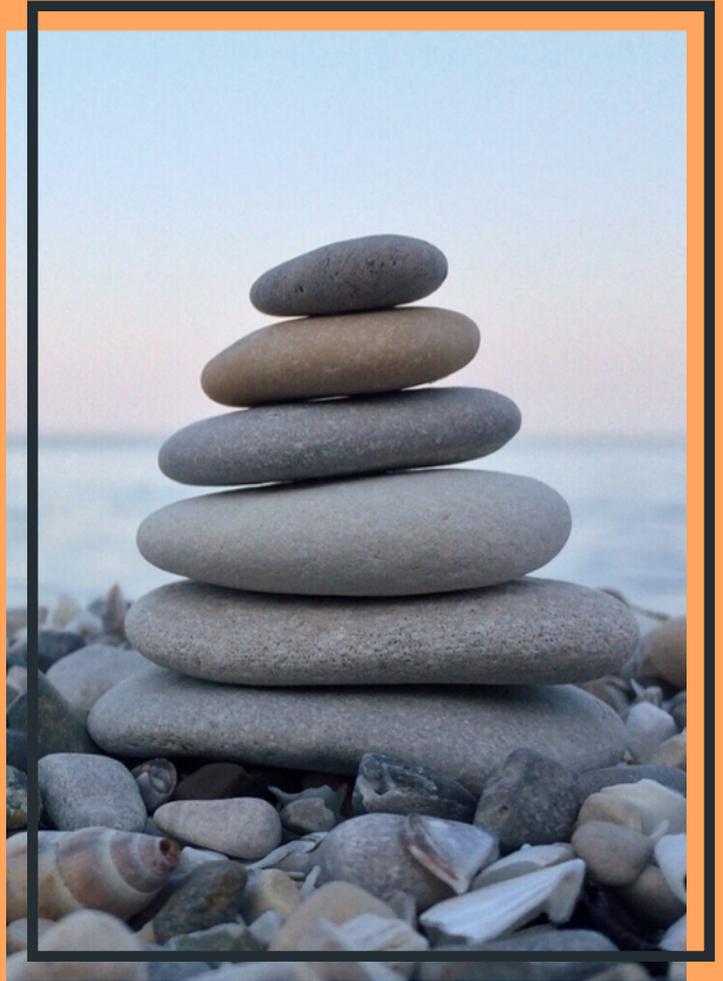
Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of being able to worship you today. Thank you for the freedom to be amongst your family here today, meeting together in the warmth of your embrace.

Lord God, creator of all things, for your love for humankind: for your love for each person: for the great and mysterious opportunity of life: for the life of your Spirit within us: for the gifts of your Spirit: we praise and worship you today; Lord Jesus.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Come Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful
Love



Bible

Reading

Acts 9 v. 26 – 31 NIV

Saul in Jerusalem

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 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. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

Now that we find ourselves once again holding services in Church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.





Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

DailyVerses.net

Church Together Thought

In **Acts 9 v. 20 – 25** we are told that Saul quickly joined the Christians in Damascus and began to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. In this way, he demonstrated that his transformation was real. Both Jews and Christians were astounded at the changes in Saul. The Jews quickly turned against him and sought to kill him, but his new Christian friends helped him escape. We also may experience opposition from our old associates when we surrender our lives to God and begin to share the Good News of Jesus. They may begin to feel guilty about their own sins, or they may be afraid they are about to lose our friendship. Whatever the reason, they may try to thwart our spiritual growth. This is where our development of relationships with other believers takes an essential role, protecting and guiding us through these difficult times.

In this passage from **Acts 9 v. 26 – 31** we see

the scene shift from Damascus to Jerusalem and the events occur, according to Paul, in the third year after his conversion. As Saul returned to Jerusalem and tried to join the Christian movement there, we are told, that he was immediately met with suspicion. They couldn't believe (*or weren't prepared to believe*) that such a cruel enemy could have changed so quickly. In time though, Saul proved his sincerity and was accepted. When we begin to seek God, we may meet similar scepticism for a while. As we seek to redirect the course of our lives, friends and even family members may turn away from us. In time, however, if we continue to follow God's will, we can establish better relationships with our loved ones.

When we find ourselves in a similar situation, as Saul found himself in, we need others to draw alongside us, who will be prepared to speak on our behalf and act as our character witness. At this point, in **Acts 9 v. 27**, Barnabas enters the picture as a mediator for Saul, someone who will vouch for Saul and the change in him, before the Apostles.

Son of encouragement

We first encounter Barnabas in **Acts 4 v. 36**, where he sells a field and offers the money to the apostles, to be used in their work of

spreading the good news. There are no plaques inscribed with Barnabas' name; he simply gives - then fades out of the picture. We are not told what great things were accomplished through Barnabas' gift, but we do learn what his name means: **Son of Encouragement**. And Barnabas continues to live up to his name.

He reappears, as we have read in **Acts 9**, not to occupy centre stage, but to nudge Saul forward.

It's easy to raise our voices in unison with a cheering crowd, but Barnabas spoke up for Saul before he became known as Paul before his rise to fame.

While Saul was viewed with mistrust, suspicion, and even hostility by the apostles, Barnabas not only gave him a chance, but urged others to do the same. Why Barnabas did not share the fear of the other Jerusalem Christians is not specified. Perhaps he had learned of Saul's conversion through some of his fellow Greek - speaking Christians who had come from Damascus.

In any event, Barnabas seems to have been convinced of Saul's gifts and skills and secured his acceptance among the followers in Jerusalem (**Acts 9 v. 28**). Later,

we are told that Barnabas' trust and confidence in Saul was soon rewarded as Saul became a bold and powerful evangelist in the city.

'He must become greater'

The combination of Barnabas and Saul brings to mind John the Baptist and Jesus. John was the forerunner, the one who prepared the way for Jesus. Having baptised Jesus and proclaimed him '**Lamb of God**', John stepped back into the shadows, saying simply, '**He must become greater; I must become less**' (**John 3 v. 30**).

Barnabas does much the same thing. He befriends Saul, introduces him to the apostles and ensures his acceptance, then retreats into the background.

At the beginning of their first missionary journey, Luke refers to the pair as '**Barnabas and Saul**' (**Acts 13 v. 2**), but this soon changes to '**Paul and Barnabas**' (**Acts 13 v. 42**), an indication of Paul's growing prominence. Barnabas displays neither disappointment nor resentment. Having done his job - and done it well - he is content to let the spotlight shine on Paul.

More encouragement

Each of us has been blessed with different gifts. But the art of encouragement is something that can be cultivated by anyone. Maybe, we need to stop and think: who, among the children, young people or

adults we work with, or associate with, needs our encouragement today? We need to stop and ask the Holy Spirit to show us; then we need to go on and be a Barnabas in someone's life!

Let's spend a little time thinking about Barnabas, and how we as both individuals and as a church can become examples of encouragement to others who need it the most.

What is it that makes someone a really good friend? It's good to have friends - especially when things are tough. Saul was about to discover that! Now Saul was back in Jerusalem, the very place where he had been trying to get rid of Christians. Only now he was trying to **JOIN** the Christians. Barnabas deserved his name - it means '**encourager**'! So what is it that Barnabas actually does in order to help Saul?

FIRSTLY, BARNABAS ENCOURAGED SAUL

It must have been hard for Saul not to be welcomed by the Christians in Jerusalem. He needed a good friend. Barnabas stood by him and encouraged him to keep going. We need to stand beside new and young Christians and encourage them to keep going in their faith. We learn that Barnabas does this for Saul, by offering a personal welcome, by taking the initiative to introduce Saul to the group of believers and looking out for him when he needed him the most.

SECONDLY, BARNABAS ENCOURAGED THE CHRISTIANS

The Christians in Jerusalem couldn't believe that Saul had changed. But Barnabas stood up for him and explained all that had happened. He encouraged the Christians to put their faith into practice and welcome a new disciple. Barnabas helped them to overcome their fears by getting to know Saul so that they could see that he had changed.

We need to put aside our prejudices and accept Christians who may look or sound different to us.

FINALLY, BARNABAS ENCOURAGED THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

Because Barnabas was willing to take a risk and introduce Saul into the body of Christians, the gospel spread throughout the area - and eventually well beyond! Similarly, we need to be ready to encourage and support Christians who are taking the gospel beyond our church walls.

Prayers of Intercession

Let's pray together this day for:

Everything you give us Lord, for the sunshine and the changing seasons, and the resilience to walk with you in these times.

Those families that are known to us. For those who are young, working, elderly. Those who struggle in their health.

For you being there in every circumstance and situation that we find ourselves in.

Those without homes, through eviction, or the inability to pay rent, those dispossessed through migration in Europe and throughout the world, particularly those affected by wars and natural disasters in their home country.

That Your kingdom is founded on love and that you welcome all people there. We remember the promise in John 14 that your house has many rooms and we are assured of our forever home with you.

Those who are marginalised and live on the edge of society. Praying for their dignity and well - being.

One another. Praying for health and strength today.

Amen



Song Suggestion

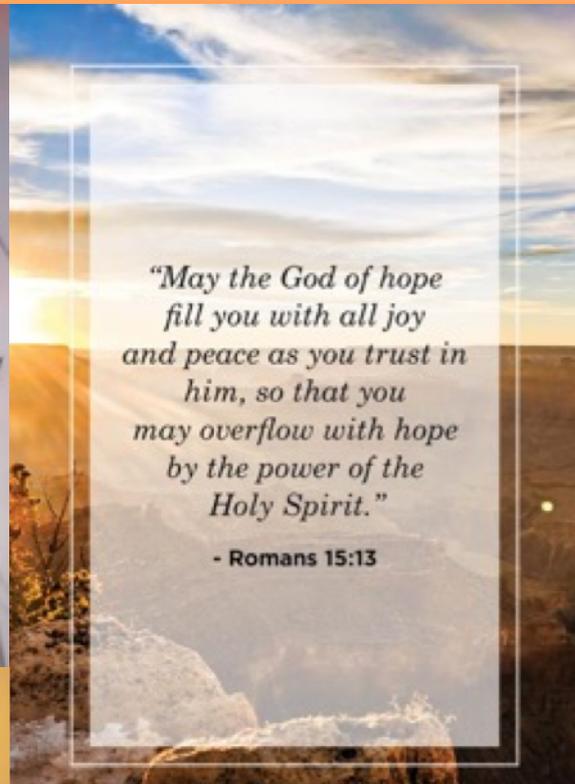
There Is A Redeemer





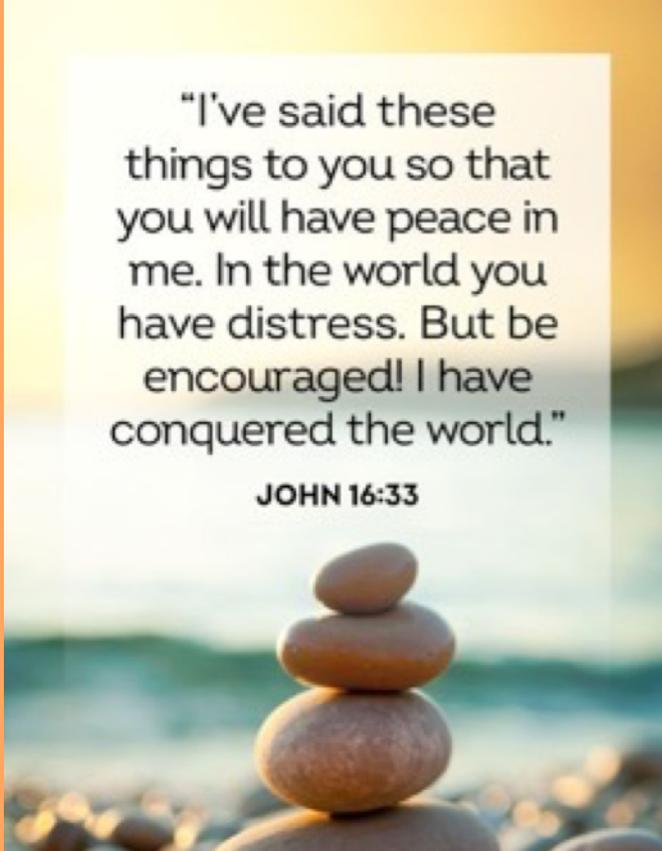
I am the Lord your
God, who holds
your right hand,
and I tell you,
'Don't be afraid. I
will help you.'

Isaiah 41:13



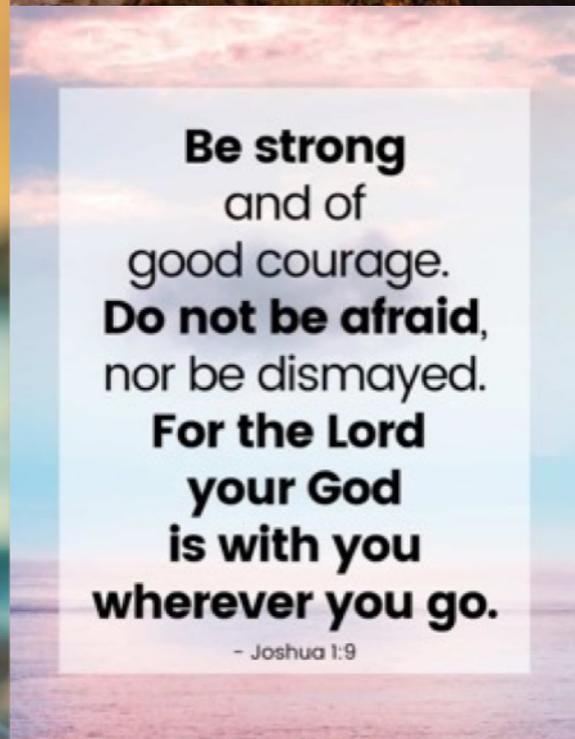
*"May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in
him, so that you
may overflow with hope
by the power of the
Holy Spirit."*

- Romans 15:13



"I've said these
things to you so that
you will have peace in
me. In the world you
have distress. But be
encouraged! I have
conquered the world."

JOHN 16:33



**Be strong
and of
good courage.
Do not be afraid,
nor be dismayed.
For the Lord
your God
is with you
wherever you go.**

- Joshua 1:9



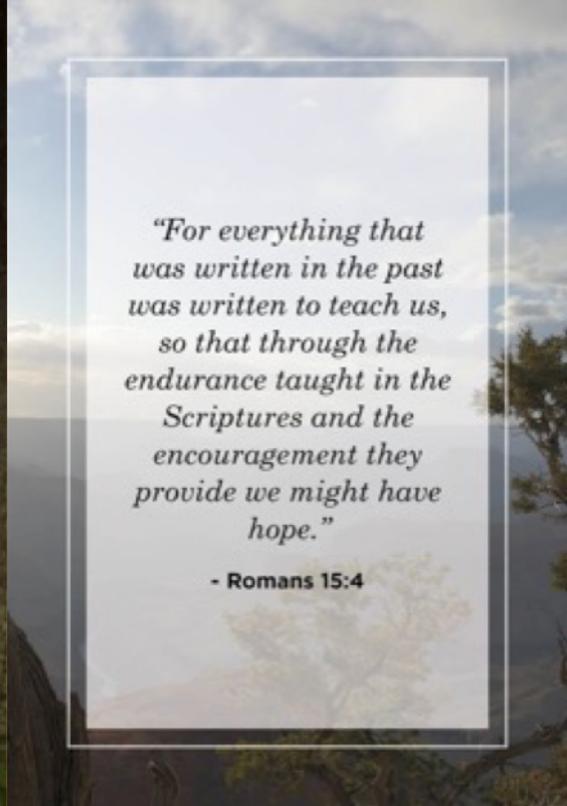
For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11



"Trust in the Lord with
all your heart, and do
not lean on your own
understanding. In all
your ways acknowledge
him, and he will make
straight your paths."

PROVERBS 3:5-6



*"For everything that
was written in the past
was written to teach us,
so that through the
endurance taught in the
Scriptures and the
encouragement they
provide we might have
hope."*

- Romans 15:4



But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



The LORD himself goes before you and will be
with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8

Communion

Today is a Sunday when we would normally share communion together. We come together today remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church or at home as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together.

We are able to do this by getting a small glass of red juice (**fruit juice, squash etc.**) and a small piece of bread and 'sharing these elements' at a time that is convenient to you.

(Normally as a church we will do this during the morning service at about 11.30 am)

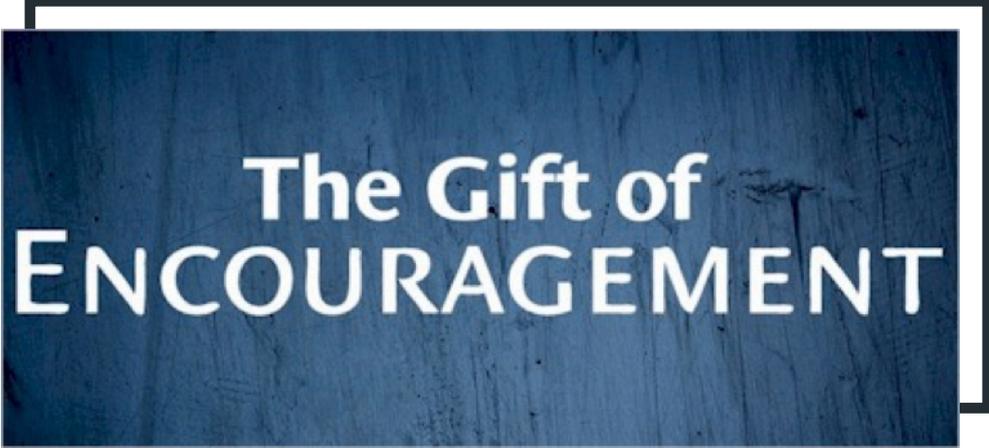
Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I receive from the Lord what I pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, **(you might like to pray at this point)** he broke it and said 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' **(This is the time to eat the bread)**. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **(Now is the time to drink the cup)**. For whenever you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 – 26

If you would like to do this today with us, if you are at home, then please do so, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with you today.





**The Gift of
ENCOURAGEMENT**

Song Suggestion

In Christ Alone



Blessing



And now may the Love of God,
The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
And the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Remain with us all,
Now and forever more.

Amen