

# Home Group Questions

the week of 6/1/2020

Acts 11 & various passages

## POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### **GETTING STARTED...**

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the unstoppable church by focusing on Peter's vision in Acts chapter 10. This vision highlights an amazing transition that happened in the early church as a result of the death of Jesus on the cross, and how he fulfilled the requirements of the Old Testament Law and established the New Covenant!

### **LOOKING IN THE WORD...**

**1. Read Acts 11:19-26.** Barnabas was an amazing encourager. Talk about people in your life that were an encouragement in your life. This study will survey some of the moments in which we see Barnabas using his gift of encouragement to impact the church in a positive way.

**2. Read Acts 4:37 in context.** Barnabas sells a piece of land and gives the money from the sale to the apostles. We were challenged to think of those that we can encourage by a sacrifice of our resources (time, talent, treasures). (Acts 4:37) What are the resources that you find yourself most willing to sacrifice? Which ones are most difficult to sacrifice as you see the needs of others? Obviously, the Lord doesn't want anyone "overextended;" what are ways to avoid that happening in the use of your resources in ministry?

**3. Read Acts 9:26-27.** Encouragement involves believing the best of someone. (Acts 9:26-27) How does that impact the way you relate to people who have failed or disappointed you? Who do you know that may not feel accepted or connected in the church, but you could reach out to them again, or in a fresh new way?

**4. Read Acts 11:19-24.** Encouraging finds its greatest application in spiritual edification. (Acts 11:19-24) How does this relate to our friendships? Our time spent with our spouse and children and the content of our communication with each person. What are ways you can humbly and lovingly increase the spiritual edification with your friendships?

**5. Read Acts 11:25-26.** Barnabas seeks out Paul and involved him in the work of the Lord in Antioch. Encouraging looks to bring others into growth experiences. (Acts 11:25-26) What are some growth experiences in your life? Are there people around you who are not participating in those events that you could reach out to? What are the pros and cons of doing this?

**6. Read Acts 13:13; 15:37-39.** Encouraging longs to give "growers" another chance. Barnabas was willing to give Mark another opportunity...a second chance. What are the risks and challenges with decisions to do that?

- What are some loving steps you can take to increase the possibility of giving someone another chance? Is there someone you know that needs to be restored into a right relationship with you and/or others? What wise steps can you make to be used of the Lord to bring healing?

- **The sermon highlighted the encouragement we can find in our relationship with Christ.** Read Philippians 2:1-4. What do you think the connection is between the encouragement we have in Christ and the call for unity and selflessness in the church? Share times in your life when you were impacted by someone's love or selflessness that was motivated by their love for Christ.

### **MOVING FORWARD...**

Pray for our country and for peace when there is so much unrest and violence. Take some time and pray for our president and leaders and all those seeking to bring healing to our land through the power of Christ.