

The Barnabas Blueprint

YOUR NAME

What does your name mean?

Is there significance to why you were given this name?

Do you have any 'nicknames' that are reflective of who you are?

YOUR EXPERIENCE

Do you have a person that has been a 'Barnabas – a son/daughter of encouragement to you'? Share your experience if you are comfortable.

THE BARNABAS BLUEPRINT

What characteristic of Barnabas do you think is most valuable?

- Humble (Acts 4:36-37).
- Generous (Acts 4:36-37).
- See potential where others don't (9:27).
- Willing to invest in others to pass on the faith (Acts 11:25-26) (Acts 13:42)
- Willing to be outshone by his student.
- Committed to mentoring even in difficult circumstances (Acts 15:36-40)

THE LEVITES

Barnabas was a Levite – check out the following passages that describe the Levites and see what picture it leaves you with.

- Exodus 32:26-28 Levites rally to Moses.
- Exodus 2:1 Moses = Levite.
Numbers 18:22-24 Responsibilities of Levites
- Numbers 1:47-53 The Levites task was to oversee the Temple & Worship
Deuteronomy 27:14 The Levites task was to recite God's blessings & curses.
- Luke 10:32 A Levite features in the Parable of the good Samaritan

The parable of the Good Samaritan seems to give the societal perception of Levites. What do you think might have made Barnabas different from the typical?

BARNABAS' MISTAKE

Galatians 2:13 When Barnabas got it wrong he ended up on the receiving end of a rebuke from

Paul. What was the problem in the Galatian Church? *See Galatians 2:16, 3:1-5.*

How do you think Barnabas might have responded to Paul's rebuke?

How do you think someone as 'good' as Barnabas might have got caught up in this tangle?

What similar dangers do you face in your life?

BARNABAS & PAUL IN DISPUTE

In Acts 15:36-40 'the' dispute between Paul and Barnabas occurs. What do you make of this dispute?

Was the dispute wrong? On what basis could Paul have justified the correctness of his position? (*John Mark is Barnabas' cousin, Mark had failed once already, Paul was now the senior of the pair, etc.*)

What about Barnabas? (*Barnabas helped Paul to be who he is, Paul needed to show some grace – not just preach it, what would it matter if he did come and did fail?*)

Is it ok that Paul and Barnabas never worked together again? Who got it right? (2 Timothy 4:9-11)

THE STORY OF BARNABAS

What surprises you most in the Barnabas' story? What have you learnt from this?

OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND

How would you like to respond to the challenge of Barnabas' example?

In what ways can you be a son or daughter of encouragement in your home, place of work/study, Church? Some options would include (aim to be specific):

- *Be a mentor to a young person*
- *Be a mentor to someone who is new to church*
- *Be a mentor in my place of work/study*
- *Be a mentor to a new or potential leader.*

Acts 11:23-24 When Barnabas arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.