

WEEK 1: THE ENCOURAGER



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SCRIPTURE: ACTS 9:23-28

*23 After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.
Saul in Jerusalem*

26 When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

GETTING STARTED

Welcome to our February series, all about relationships. Over the next four weeks, we will explore some of the most important relationships that we have. As you get started today, discuss:

- If you could identify the three most important relationships in your life, who would those people be?
- What makes these relationships so special?
- Pray together: Loving God, you have created us to be in relationship with each other and with you. As we go through this series, we pray that you would give us a deeper understanding and appreciation for the relationships that we have. Amen.

INDISPENSABLE

The Relationships You Can't Do Without

SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read this week's Scripture together, then discuss:

- The first relationship we are exploring is people who encourage us. Who are some encouragers in your life? How did they encourage you?
- If we are wired to need encouragement, then that implies that we are going to face times when we are discouraged. When have you found yourself in this situation? Did you have an encourager to walk with you through that time? How did that impact you?
- Thinking about this week's Scripture, how did Barnabas play the role of an encourager? What can we learn from his example?
- Who might God be calling you to encourage this week?

*"Everyone needs a Barnabas, because at some point we will all face some kind of discouragement."
-Rev. Dr. Jevon Caldwell-Gross*

PRAYER REQUESTS