

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

42

BARNABAS-SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



42

BARNABAS - SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Memory Verse:

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. (Ephesians 4:29 NCV)

Lesson Goals:

- #1 - Understand how ordinary Barnabas was
- #2 - Discover what obedience led Barnabas to do
- #3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Acts 4:32-37, Acts 9:19-31, Acts 11:19-30, Acts 12:24-25

Acts 13-15



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Acts 4:32-37, Acts 9:19-31, Acts 11:19-30, Acts 12:24-25, Acts 13-15

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Barnabas

His Heroic Feat: Encourages Believers

Encouraging believers may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

In our last lesson we talked about Saul, or Paul. After Saul began to follow the Lord he spoke boldly about Jesus being the Christ. This angered the Jews and they made plans to kill Saul. Saul went to Jerusalem where a man named Barnabas accepted him. Barnabas took Saul to the apostles and explained to them that, not only had Saul seen the Lord on the road to Damascus, but the Lord had also spoken to Saul. Barnabas even told them how boldly Saul preached about Jesus. They allowed Saul to stay with the followers based on the word of a man named Barnabas.

Who is this man that the apostles trusted so much? His real name was Joseph and he was from the island of Cyprus. Because of his character, the apostles had nicknamed him Barnabas because it means "son of encouragement" or "one who encourages." Barnabas had even sold a field that he owned so that he could give the money to the apostles.

The Jewish people in Jerusalem also tried to kill Saul, so he escaped to his home town of Tarsus. After several years, Barnabas went to look for Saul. He brought him back to a town named Antioch. Saul ministered with Barnabas there. "Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and full of faith. . . He encouraged all the believers in Antioch always to obey the Lord with all their hearts, and many people became followers of the Lord." (Acts 11:23-24 NCV) Barnabas and Saul served together in Antioch for a whole year and then they journeyed together starting churches. John Mark, Barnabas' cousin, went with them to help, but left before the journey was over. Saul, or Paul, and Barnabas both spoke boldly in the places they visited. They began sharing the Good News with fellow Jews, but when they refused to listen, Paul and Barnabas went to the people of other nations and told them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

On their journey Paul and Barnabas even returned to places they had already visited. They did this to make the followers of Jesus stronger and help them stay in the faith. When Paul and Barnabas finished their journey they went back to Antioch. They gathered everyone in the church together and told them what God had done, that

many had believed. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch for a long time. They “preached the Good News and taught the people the message of the Lord.” (Acts 15:35 NCV)

“After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, ‘We should go back to all those towns where we preached the message of the Lord. Let’s visit the believers and see how they are doing.’” (Acts 15:36 NCV) What a great idea!

Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again, but Paul disagreed. Paul didn’t think it was a good idea since John Mark had left them in the middle of the first journey. And Barnabas, always the encourager, wanted John Mark to go. What Paul may or may not have known, was that between the time that he had left them to the present time, John Mark had been inspired by God to write the Gospel of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. Either way, Paul and Barnabas disagreed so strongly that they decided it would be best to separate. Paul took a man named Silas with him and headed toward Syria. “Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus.” (Acts 15:39 NCV) And so the work continued, just doubled.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don’t have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Barnabas encouraged believers.

How about you? Are you a believer? Have you decided to follow Jesus? If not, let’s talk. If so are you like Barnabas? Do you encourage other believers? You may be wondering how to do that. Our memory verse helps us. It says, “When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you.” (Ephesians 4:29 NCV)



NEXT WEEK
Silas

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

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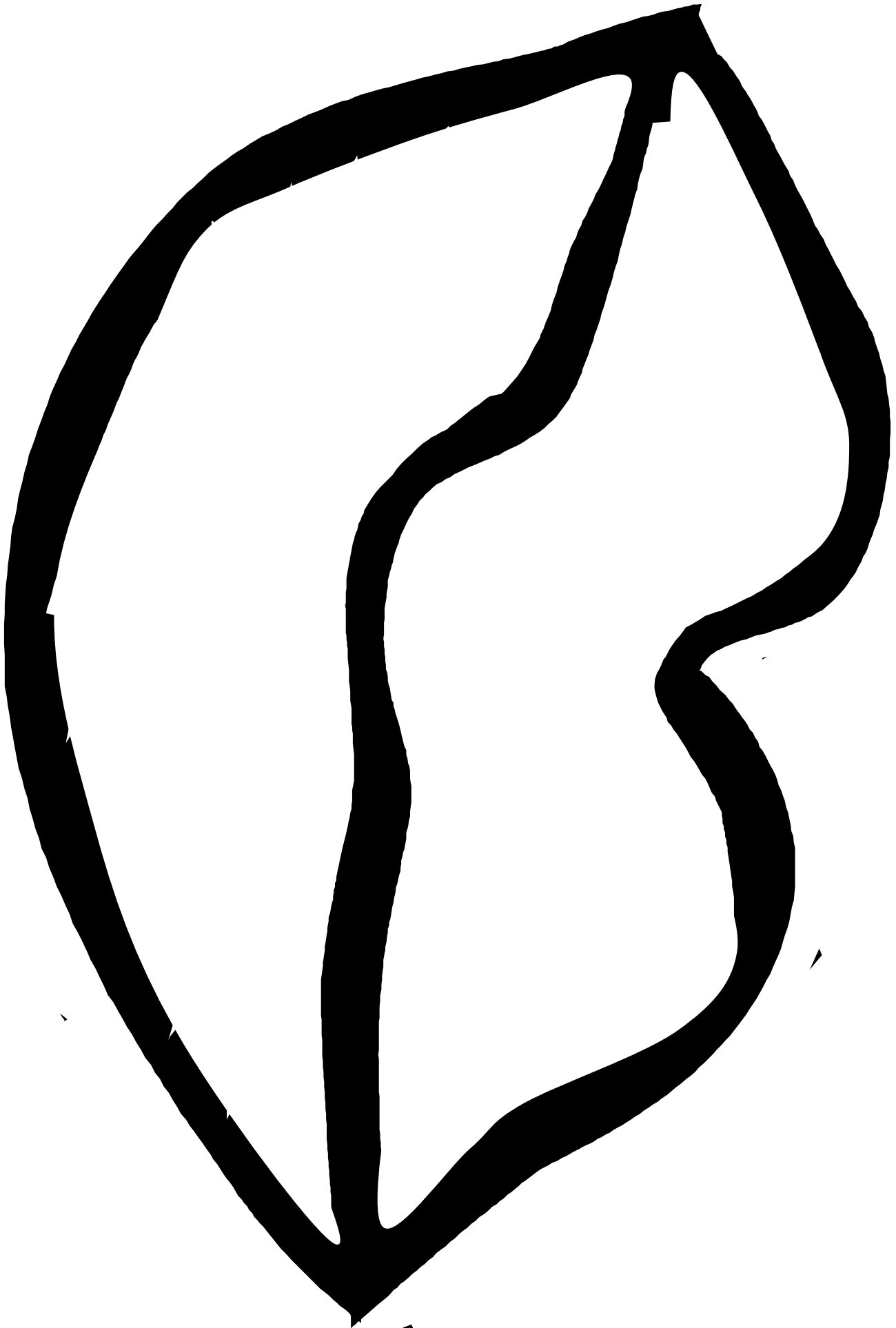
In our last lesson, we talked about Saul, or Paul. After Saul began to follow the Lord, he spoke boldly about Jesus. A man named Barnabas introduced Saul to the apostles. He even told them how Saul preached about Jesus.

Who is this man that the apostles trusted so much? His real name was Joseph and he was from the island of Cyprus. Because of his character, the apostles had nicknamed him Barnabas because it means "one who encourages."

Saul ministered with Barnabas in a city called Antioch. "Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and full of faith. . . He encouraged all the believers in Antioch always to obey the Lord with all their hearts, and many people became followers of the Lord." (Acts 11:23-24 NCV) Barnabas and Saul served together in Antioch for a whole year and then they journeyed together starting churches. On their journey, Paul and Barnabas preached about Jesus in many new places. They even returned to places they had already visited. They did this to make the followers of Jesus stronger and help them stay in the faith. When Paul and Barnabas finished their journey they went back to Antioch and told everyone what God had done. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch for a long time. They "preached the Good News and taught the people the message of the Lord." (Acts 15:35 NCV)

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Provide red, pink or purple construction paper. Fold the construction paper in half and trace an outline for lips. (See the following page for lips template.) Print the memory verse on the lips poster. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love," "The Mission" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make a list of ways you can encourage other believers this week.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Ephesians 4:29-32 in light of our lesson.
- **For more training:** The nickname Barnabas means "one who encourages." The Greek word here for "encourages" is *paraklesis*. There is another familiar word, *parakletos*, that is from this same root word. It may not sound familiar in Greek, but you may be familiar with it in English. Read John 14:16. *Parakletos* is translated here as "another Helper" and indicates the Holy Spirit. Where did Barnabas' gift of encouragement come from? The Holy Spirit!
- **For more training:** Read and discuss the following verses in light of the lesson. (They are verses that include the same word for encouragement as Barnabas' name.) Romans 15:4-5, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, 1 Timothy 4:11-16



When you talk,
do not say harmful things,
but say what people need—

WORDS THAT will **HELP**

others become stronger.

Then what you say
will do good to those
who listen to you.

Ephesians 4:29

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Barnabas-Son of Encouragement

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture:

Acts 4:32-37, Acts 9:19-31, Acts 11:19-30, Acts 12:24-25, Acts 13-15

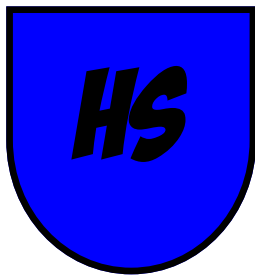
Memory verse:

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. (Ephesians 4:29 NCV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Review our lesson and the memory verse. How can you be an encourager like Barnabas? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Trace along the dotted lines below to find out what Barnabas' name means. Then read the memory verse. How can you be an encourager like Barnabas?

SON OF

ENCOURAGEMENT

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you.
(Ephesians 4:29 NCV)

WORD

SEARCH!

S N L D J A T S O M F H B
N E N C O U R A G E O T S
O H E R T G C U T E R E T
L T P S H F O L L Y G H D
D G T Y E O L O T M S T E
O N T A R L E G D A Y I S
T E H S S L T H G I E B H
S R E U D O T A D N S L B
T T F O E P H E S I A N S
E S A Y U S R I O L B N F
P B I T P J S C O E A D L
H A T A M E N N Y N N E K
P L E H T A H T S D R O W
N H D W S U C S A M A D N
B S W O R S H C R U B C G

- Saul
- Barnabas
- encourage
- words that help
- what you say
- do good
- strengthen
- others
- Ephesians

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Trace along the dotted lines below to find out what Barnabas' name means. Then read the memory verse. How can you be an encourager like Barnabas?

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When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you.
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WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

S	N	L	D	J	A	T	S	O	M	F	H	B
N	E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	O	T	S
O	H	E	R	T	G	C	U	T	E	R	E	T
L	T	P	S	H	F	O	L	L	Y	G	H	D
D	G	T	Y	E	O	L	O	T	M	S	T	E
O	N	T	A	R	L	E	G	D	A	Y	I	S
T	E	H	S	S	L	T	H	G	I	E	B	H
S	R	E	U	D	O	T	A	D	N	S	L	B
T	T	F	O	E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S
E	S	A	Y	U	S	R	I	O	L	B	N	F
P	B	I	T	P	J	S	C	O	E	A	D	L
H	A	T	A	M	E	N	N	Y	N	N	E	K
P	L	E	H	T	A	H	T	S	D	R	O	W
N	H	D	W	S	U	C	S	A	M	A	D	N
B	S	W	O	R	S	H	C	R	U	B	C	G

- Saul
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