



Discussion Guide: Influencer | Influencing with Encouragement

Begin with prayer

5 min

Check In

20-30 min

Spend a few minutes catching up on life with one another.

- Fruit: what has been bringing you joy lately?
- Thorn: what have you been struggling with lately?
- Vine: how have you seen or been connecting with God lately?
- Bud: what are you looking forward to?

Discuss this week's sermon

10-15 min

- Newton's Cradle is all about the transferring of energy. In this series we're talking about tapping into the power we've been given by the God and using it for His glory. How has God been pouring into you lately and how can you use that for His glory?
- In Sunday's sermon, Sorensen preached from his grandmother's bible. What are some heirlooms of faith in your family? Who is the person in your family that everyone knows for their faith.

Open your bibles together

30-35 min

- Acts 4:32-37
- For Barnabas, encouragement wasn't just about words. He sold a field to help support the brothers and sisters of the faith. What's another way that encouragement can go beyond words?
- The Greek word for encouragement is parakaleo, which means to "come alongside" and "to call out". How do we come alongside someone without condoning or call out without condemning?
- Read Acts 9:26-28
- How do you think Paul felt when Barnabas vouched and stick up for him? Describe a time when someone came along side you like that?
- Who has been a Barnabas in your life (someone who sees more in you than others; perhaps even yourself)? Who have you been that for?
- Read Acts 11:19-26



- Vs. 24 says that Barnabas was a “good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit.” What role does integrity play in Christian influence?
- How can you be an encouraging presence in discouraging places?
- Read Hebrews 10:23-25
- Average church attendance was decreasing long before COVID. What do you think has contributed to the lack of prioritizing gathering for church? How can we be intentional about not letting that happen to us?
- The biblical author instructs us to encourage one another. Spend a few minutes offering words of encouragement to everyone in the group.

Prayer for one another

10 min

- Encourage the person who's assigned over prayer request to get them at this time