

PBC Growing in Christ

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Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The cross is silhouetted against a sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere. The cross is the central focus of the image, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





Encourage

Acts 9:26-28; 11:21-26

**When have you recently
seen encouragement in
action?**

**Scripture
Encourage
Acts 9:26-28**

26 When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple. 27 Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 Saul was coming and going with them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.



Encourage Acts 9:26-28

**What risks do you take when
you endorse an outsider?**

**When have you felt like the new
kid on the block?**



Encourage

Acts 9:26-28

- **Barnabas showed three ways to encourage others. The first way is by encouraging acceptance.**
- **God used Barnabas to bring Saul to a place of prominence. The apostles may not have rejected Saul outright, but they certainly kept their distance. Saul was not the kind of person a Christian would want to be around. Christians were known to end up in trouble—or dead—when Saul came around (Acts 26:9-11). Even though Saul’s heart had been changed completely after an encounter with Jesus, the believers in Jerusalem didn’t dare trust him.**

Scripture Encourage Acts 11:21-24

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. **22** News about them reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. **23** When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, **24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And large numbers of people were added to the Lord.



Encourage Acts 11:21-24

How can we intentionally grow into the role of an encourager?

What role did encouragement play in the church at Antioch?

Encourage

Acts 11:21-24



- While in Antioch, Barnabas's second way he encouraged others was by encouraging growth.
- Barnabas presents a wonderful example of how to help new Christians.
- He demonstrated strong faith, he ministered joyfully with kindness and encouragement and he believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform a person's life regardless of their past.

**Scripture
Encourage
Acts 11:25-26**

**25 Then he went to Tarsus to search for Saul,
26 and when he found him he brought him to
Antioch. For a whole year they met with the
church and taught large numbers. The
disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.**



Encourage Acts 11:25-26

**What might hold us back
from offering
encouragement to others?**

**What is our responsibility
toward someone who has
faded from view?**



Encourage

Acts 11:25-26

- The third way Barnabas encouraged was by encouraging service.
- Barnabas invested in Paul, his leadership and his future in ministry.
- The church of Jesus Christ should be the most encouraging place on earth. Homes committed to Christ should be greenhouses of growth for young children coming up in them. Good words encourage growth. And they should encourage others to step up and serve.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

- **Express thanks.** Express thanks to someone who has been an encouragement to you. Be specific regarding how his or her words or actions helped you.
- **Evaluate your life.** Consider whether people are encouraged by your example or actions. Consider what you might need to change to be an encourager like Barnabas.
- **Encourage each other.** Share ways each person in the group lives out one or more of the character traits in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Final thoughts about Encourage



- Believer grows strong through regular encouraging.
- As we have received encouragement, we should offer the same support to someone else. Our relationships will be strengthened when we open our hearts this way.

Resources

- Galatians 1:18-19
- Acts 9:1-2; 9:29-30; 11:27-30; 26:9-11
- 1 Peter 4:16
- BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth
- Bible.com



Next Week: February 14, 2021
Christian Love

John 15:9-17

When has small problems
clouded your view?



**God Bless
You!**

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