

LIFTING SPIRITS

BECOMING SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

A SERIES BY RAY REYNOLDS

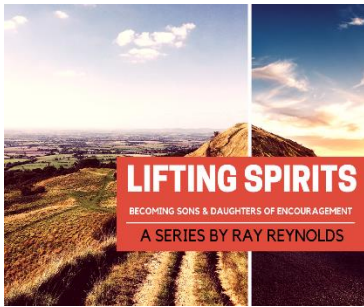


GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE



LESSON #1

The Example of an Encourager

Introduction: In **Acts 4:36** a man named Joseph was renamed the "Son of Encouragement" by early Christians because of his amazing Christ-like spirit. Over the next few weeks we are going to study together and see how we can become children of God like Barnabas. Consider his example....

Discussion:

I. Barnabas Was Full of Conviction

Acts 4:32-37
Numbers 18:24
II Samuel 24:24
Matthew 6:33
Numbers 18:21
II Corinthians 8:9
Acts 9:26-31
Acts 11:19-22

II. Barnabas Was Full of Goodness

Acts 11:24
Matthew 19:16-30
Mark 10:17-31
Luke 18:18-30
Romans 3:17-18
Isaiah 59:7-8
Psalm 36:1

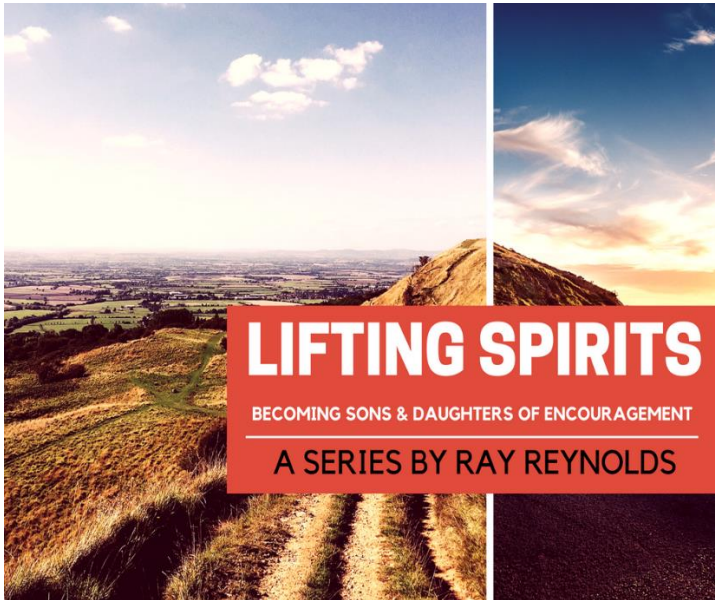
III. Barnabas Was Full of the Holy Spirit

Acts 11:24
Ephesians 5:18
Ephesians 4:11-16
John 15:1-8
Galatians 5:22-23

IV. Barnabas Was Full of Faith

Acts 11:24
Hebrews 11:1
Romans 10:17
James 2:14-26
Acts 6:1-7

Conclusion: These qualities impressed people so much that they changed a man's name! His character was so revered because he was an encourager, builder, uplifter, renewer, and refresher. I believe this describes the kind of person God wants us to be. We may not have the limelight, but we can walk and work quietly in the shadows, uplifting, and encouraging others. Are you ready to become a son or daughter of encouragement? Are you ready to fully surrender to God?



LESSON #2

The Characteristics of an Encourager

Introduction: This morning we studied **Acts 4:36** and we were introduced to a man named Joseph who was renamed the "Son of Encouragement" because of his spirit. These words serve as an epitaph for him. What will your epitaph say? Over the next few weeks we are going to study together and see how we can become children of God like Barnabas. Tonight, I want to take a practical approach to these texts we mentioned. Let's continue to look through the book of Acts and notice some characteristics that we can learn from Barnabas....

Discussion:

- I. To Be An Encourager We Need to Sacrifice For Others*
Acts 4:32-37

- II. To Be An Encourager We Need to See the Best in Others*
Acts 9:26-31

- III. To Be An Encourager We Need to Support the Work of Others*
Acts 11:19-26

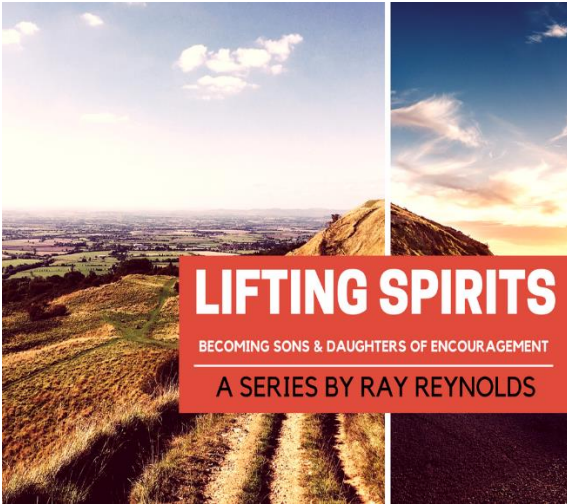
- IV. To Be An Encourager We Need to Spread the Good News to Others*
Acts 12:24-13:3

- V. To Be An Encourager We Need to Be Slow To Judge Others*
Acts 15:36-41

Conclusion: There is a pattern of behavior here that we can choose to follow today. Every one of us can become a person of encouragement. Every one of us can earn the privilege of having such words to describe us. Every one of us can be used by God to bring much needed encouragement to those around us. And it can happen if we are willing to commit ourselves to building these character qualities of Barnabas in our lives. Are you ready to become a son or daughter of encouragement? Are you ready to fully surrender to God?

LESSON #3

The Reach of an Encourager



Introduction: Last Sunday we studied **Acts 4:36**, and many other passages, that introduced us to a man named Joseph/Joses. He was renamed the "Son of Encouragement" by early Christians because of his amazing Christ-like spirit. We decided to make it our goal, over these few weeks, to study together and see how we can become children of God like Barnabas. How can we become Sons & Daughters of Encouragement? Today I want us to consider what kind of a reach he had. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Encouragers Reach Up

(Consider The God ABOVE You)

- A. Search the Ways of God (**Acts 4:36-37**)
- B. Seek the Witness of God (**Acts 9:26-27**)
- C. Start the Work of God (**Acts 12:25**)

II. Encouragers Reach In

(Consider The ATTITUDE Inside of You)

- A. Demonstrate Christ In Your Life (**Acts 11:24**)
- B. Display Contentment In Your Life (**Acts 13:49-52**)
- C. Deflect Criticism In Your Life (**Acts 15:36-40**)

III. Encouragers Reach Out

(Consider Those AROUND You)

- A. Edify The Desperate (**Acts 9:26-27**)
- B. Exhort The Disciples (**Acts 11:22-23**)
- C. Embrace The Dejected (**Acts 15:36-40**)

IV. Encouragers Reach Around

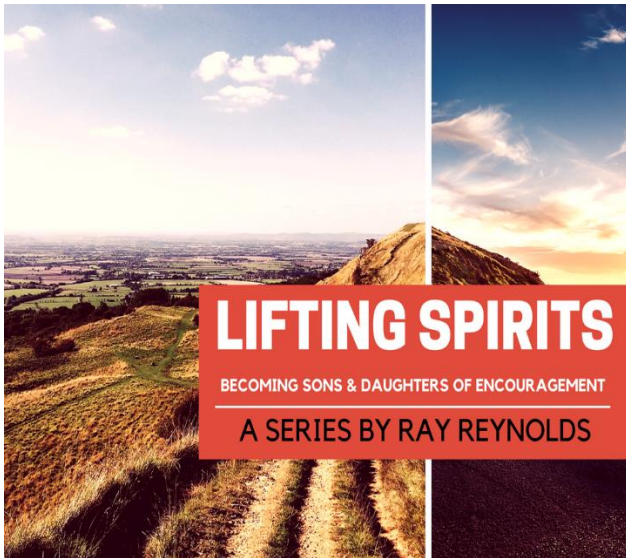
(Consider Those ATTACHED to You)

- A. Promote The Work of God (**Acts 4:36-37**)
- B. Praise The Wisdom of God (**Acts 11:23-26**)
- C. Participate In The Will of God (**Acts 13:1-3**)

Conclusion: I look at Barnabas and realize just how far I have to go to reach his level of spirituality. He was in sync with the Holy Spirit to such an extreme that he completely surrendered to the will of God even if it meant radically serving God with reckless abandon. It may be our desire to seek out a Barnabas to encourage us, but God's desire is that become a Barnabas! Are you ready to become a son or daughter of encouragement? Are you ready to fully surrender to God?

LESSON #4

The Responsibility of an Encourager



Introduction: For the past few Sunday's we have been studying about a man named Joseph. He was renamed (Barnabas) the "Son of Encouragement" by early Christians because of his amazing Christ-like spirit. We decided to make it our goal, over these few weeks, to study together and see how we can become children of God like Barnabas. How can we become Sons & Daughters of Encouragement? Today I want us to consider the responsibility we have to achieve this task. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. Consider Your Target

- A. Encouraging the Church (**Acts 4:32-37**)
- B. Encouraging Someone Ostracized (**Acts 9:26-32**)
- C. Encouraging Someone M.I.A. (**Acts 11:25-30**)
- D. Encouraging Someone Who Failed (**Acts 15:36-31**)

II. Consider Your Gift (Romans 12:8)

- A. Encouragers are Burden Bearers
- B. Encouragers are Load Lifters
- C. Encouragers are Mighty Ministers
- D. Encouragers are Body Builders

III. Consider Your Challenge (Philippians 3:12-14)

- A. A Humble Evaluation
- B. A Holy Aspiration
- C. A Healthy Determination
- D. A Heavenly Invitation

IV. Consider Your Enemy (1 Thessalonians 3:1-8)

- A. The Pain of Discouragement
- B. The Power of Discouragement
- C. The Power of Encouragement
- D. The Practice of Encouragement

Conclusion: I look at Barnabas and realize just how far I have to go to reach his level of spirituality. He was in sync with the Holy Spirit to such an extreme that he completely surrendered to the will of God even if it meant radically serving God with reckless abandon. It may be our desire to seek out a Barnabas to encourage us, but God's desire is that become a Barnabas! Are you ready to become a son or daughter of encouragement? Are you ready to fully surrender to God? Will you accept the responsibility to be an encourager?