

Week 5.
Developing others
Be a Barney

First mention of Barney.

Act 4:36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,

Act 4:37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Note: Barnabas was a nick name – Son of encouragement.

1. What's your nick name?

What's the next bit about him:

Act 9:26 And 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.

Act 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Not just a son of encouragement but an advocate.

What's an advocate?

The dictionary says to advocate is:

"to speak or write in favor of; support or urge by argument; recommend publicly"

Ok here's this bits question:

2. Who are we advocating for?

What's next?

Act 11:22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

Act 11:23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,

Act 11:24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Act 11:25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

Act 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

OK Barnabas put Saul who became Paul into a situation that he could learn.

Here's your questions.

3. Who are you mentoring? Who are you discipling? Who are you teaching?

OK , next:

Act 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Notice what Barney does here, Not only has he put Paul into a learning and development process but he looks further down the track. The next generation of leadership – that's John Mark.

Ok, what's the question here:

4. Who are we preparing for future ministry?

What's up next?

Act 13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

OK, it's not just mentoring and helping others, sometimes it is being sent yourself. Sometimes it is you being in the think of things.

OK, the question:

5. What am I being called to do?

Now we come to a tricky bit.

Act 15:36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

Act 15:37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

Act 15:38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

Act 15:39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,

Act 15:40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

Now this one looks a bit like the advocating one so Barney has form yet it is also something else. He believes in the guy even though others don't.

Sometimes, we need to recognise the potential of someone and go with it. Support them, yes advocate for them, but also give them a go.

Too often, we see people fail, or let us down or not do a great job and we shelve them. Barney gives us the example: Develop don't cut out.

Here's the strange bit,. Sometimes people dump a person only to realise in the future that they are needed.

2Ti 4:11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

Here Paul, who didn't want Mark on the team is asking for him to be included! Sometimes, just have to keep developing people, keep advocating and keep believing in people.

The question:

6. Who am I to believe can do things for God?

Now we have had a number of questions today:

What's your nick name?

Who are we advocating for?

Who are you mentoring? Who are you discipling? Who are you teaching?

Who are we preparing for future ministry?

What am I being called to do?

Who am I to believe can do things for God?

Ok a different bunch of questions and in the majority it isn't about us. It is about developing others. Part of growing and developing in our Christian lives is about sharing what we have, it is about passing on not only our knowledge but sometimes our jobs to people to develop into. Ask your selves the questions again. Then, go and put it into practice.