



Day 1: Be the Person Who Believes in Others

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:26-27

Devotional:

Before Paul became a follower of Jesus, he had been very mean to Christians. He even tried to stop people from following Jesus! But then Paul met Jesus, and his life completely changed. When Paul came to Jerusalem, he wanted to join the other followers of Jesus.

But, they were afraid of him!

They remembered the things Paul had done before, and they weren't sure they could trust him. But Barnabas did something different. He listened to Paul's story and believed that Jesus had truly changed him. Then Barnabas stood beside Paul and brought him to the other disciples. When everyone else was afraid of Paul, Barnabas was willing to give him a chance. We need to encourage people in our life, believe the best about others, and remind others that God can use their lives!

Discussion:

1. Why were Jesus's disciples afraid of Paul?
2. How can you encourage someone who feels left out or is sad this week?

Prayer:

God, help me be an encourager like Barnabas. Show me people who need a friend, and help me remind them that they are loved and important. Amen!

Welcome to our *Game Changer* Devo for week 5! Throughout this series, we are learning what it looks like to be on God's team and that two are better than one! This week, we are learning that On God's Team, Players Encourage Others! *Let's get this game started*, we know you will learn so much!

Day 2: Stand Up for Others

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:27-28

Devotional:

Barnabas didn't just tell Paul, "I believe you." He was willing to stand beside Paul and speak up for him. Barnabas took Paul to the apostles and explained what had happened. He told them how Paul had met Jesus and how Paul had already been bravely telling others about Him.

Encouragement is more than saying nice things. Sometimes encouragement means standing beside someone when they need support. Maybe you notice someone being left out at recess. You can invite them to play. Maybe a new kid comes to your class at church. You can sit beside them and introduce them to your friends. God's team should be filled with people who build each other up instead of tearing each other down.

Discussion:

1. How did Barnabas use his words and actions to encourage Paul?
2. How has someone been encouraging to you and how did that make you feel?

Prayer:

Jesus, help me notice people who need encouragement. Give me courage to stand beside others and use my words to build them up. Amen!

Day 3: Encouragement Helps Us Be Brave

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:28-30

Devotional:

After Barnabas stood up for Paul, Paul was able to spend time with the other believers in Jerusalem. The Bible says Paul spoke boldly about Jesus. Paul faced people who disagreed with him and even wanted to hurt him, but he kept following Jesus. When the other believers learned that Paul was in danger, they helped him get to a safe place. Sometimes following Jesus takes courage. It can be hard to do the right thing when everyone else is doing something wrong. It can be scary to tell a friend about Jesus or stand up for someone who is being treated badly. That's why encouragement is so important. When we remind one another that God is with us, we help each other have courage to keep going.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Paul wasn't afraid even when people wanted to hurt him?
2. Do you think encouraging words help someone be brave enough to do the right thing?

Prayer:

God, thank You for giving me people who encourage me. Help me encourage others to be brave and keep doing what is right. Amen!

Day 4: Encouragement Makes God's Team Stronger!

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:31

Devotional:

Encouragement had been an important part of Paul's story. Barnabas encouraged Paul when others were afraid of him. The believers supported Paul when he was in danger. And most importantly, the Holy Spirit encouraged and strengthened all of them. You don't have to be an adult to be an encourager. You can tell your sibling something you appreciate about them. You can thank someone who serves at your church. You can remind a friend that God loves them. When everyone on God's team encourages one another, we help each other grow stronger and follow Jesus together.

Activity: "Encouragement Notes"

Give everyone in your family a small piece of paper. Have each person choose another family member and write or draw an encouraging note for them.

You could write:

"I love how you...", "You are really good at...", "Thank you for...", or "I see God using you when..."

Exchange the notes and read them together. Then challenge everyone to encourage one person outside your family during the week.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for encouraging and strengthening me. Help me use my words and actions to build others up. Amen!



Memory Verse

"Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do."

Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIRV

