



## Part 3 Discussion Guide

### Face the Issue:

This week in “I Heard”, Jeremy focused on the good things that our words can do. He focused on these verses during part of the message:

Hebrews 10:24-25

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another**—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Our words can and should be encouraging. It is one of those “One another-ing” things that we are called to do. But in a world where so many of the things that we hear are discouraging, where can we see an example of encouraging?

Did you know that there is an example in the scriptures of a man whose name means “Son of Encouragement”? He is Barnabas and that is the nickname given to him by the disciples.

*What nicknames have you had? Any of which you are embarrassed? Any that you’re proud to wear?*

*When you think of the word encouragement what comes to mind?*

*Who has been your biggest encourager? How has that changed you?*

*Who has encouraged you recently? How?*

*How have you encouraged others?*

### Into the Word:

There is a very powerful ministry in just “being there”. Barnabas “shows up” at many key moments in the life of the early church.

**Read Acts 9:20–31 and 11:19–30.**

*Imagine these two passages devoid of Barnabas’s presence. How would that have changed things?*

*How is Barnabas described in these passages? What did his presence bring to these potentially disruptive situations?*

*How did Barnabas’s encouragement develop Paul and the early church?*

*What would it look like to be “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” (11:24)?*

*What risks were involved for Barnabas in these situations?*

*What do Barnabas's actions tell you about his faith? About the God in which he believed?*

*How would you define encouragement based on Barnabas's actions here? (What were some of the specific actions that Barnabas did?)*

*Who do you know that could use the encouragement that would come from you "showing up" and encouraging them in their situation? What would that look like?*

### **Apply The Word**

*Take time this week to meditate on the faith of Barnabas. Where do you need to be sent? Where do you need to speak up and act? Where do you need to step out in faith? Where do you need to take a risk and endure? After meditating, go, be present, and encourage!*