
Next Week's Life Group: Christmas Advent
Next Week's Story: Luke 2:1-21

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to ***following, being changed by,*** and ***on mission*** with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.*



In ALL You Do

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:13

Getting Started:

What has been your biggest disagreement at work? Was it resolved?

Story Background:

As the early church began, their members were persecuted and often put to death. Paul, previously known as Saul, was present at the stoning of Stephen and continued to persecute believers (Acts 7:58, 8:1-3). So later when Paul attempted to join the believers in Jerusalem, their skepticism was understandable (Acts 9:26). Barnabus was the only one who accepted Paul and believed that his life was radically changed by his encounter with the Living God on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:1-18, 27).

Later, after Paul was sent north to Caesarea then off to Tarsus to save his life from the officials who wanted to kill him (Acts 9:31), Paul and Barnabus reunited and ministered to the church in Antioch for an entire year (Acts 11:25-26). Then the church in Antioch laid hands on them and sent them on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:2-3). In Salamis, on the island of Cyprus, John Mark, Barnabus's cousin (later called John, then Mark, Colossians 4:10), joined them, but then left them to return to Jerusalem (Acts 13:5, 13). John Mark's loyalty was later questioned by Paul when Barnabus desired to bring him along on their second missionary journey. This sparked a disagreement followed by Paul and Barnabus going their separate ways (Acts 15:36-41).

The PROBLEMS at Work



Story/Passage: Acts 15:36-41



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- Why did Paul and Barnabas have this quarrel?
- Why is Paul reluctant, opposed even, to take John with them?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Between Paul and Barnabus, who do *you* think was right or wrong? Does it matter?
- Do you think separation is an appropriate solution to an argument?



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- How would you have acted in this situation? Could this quarrel have been avoided?
- If a quarrel cannot be avoided, how should you act?