

R  N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

Life University
Kick-Off and
Classes
August 25th, 5:30 p.m.

Beach Baptism
Sunday, August 29th
6:00 p.m.

"Follow Me to
LifeGroup" Month
& T-shirt sales
Month of August

Parenting on
Purpose
Conference
Saturday, September 11th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Chets Chicks
Upcoming Events
Retreat
Friday & Saturday,
October 1st & 2nd
Bible Studies Begin
August 30th & 31st
Mentoring Coffee
September 19th & 26th



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CHURCH

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Volume XI No. 32

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Barnabas"

FOCUS: To examine the life of Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement and identify 3 ways that they can encourage others.

Acts 11:24 (NIV)

- Open Hands (Acts 4:32-37) The Book of Acts describes how members of the early church shared their possessions with those in need.
 - What does the name "Barnabas" mean? (Acts 4:36)
 - What was Barnabas' real name? (Acts 4:36)
 - Was Barnabas Jewish? How do you know? (Acts 9:36)
 - What did Barnabas do? (Acts 4:37)
 - How did Barnabas' open-handed gift encourage those first century believers?
 - What are some ways that we can follow Barnabas' example?
- Open Doors (Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-26) These passages describe Barnabas' relationship with Saul when Saul was a new believer.
 - To whom does the pronoun "he" refer in Acts 9:26?
 - Why were the disciples afraid of Saul? What risks did Barnabas take?
 - How do you think Saul felt about Barnabas' actions?
 - When men from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch, with whom did they share the good news about Jesus? Why was this significant? (Acts 11:20)
 - What was Barnabas' reaction when he arrived and saw the evidence of God's grace? (Acts 11:23)
 - How did Barnabas encourage Saul again? (Acts 11:25-26)
 - Why do you think that Barnabas' willingness to open doors for Saul was encouraging to Saul?
- Open Ears and Eyes (Acts 13:1-3; 14:21-28) Acts 13 and 14 chronicle Paul's first missionary journey. These verses tell of the call of Saul and Barnabas, the places they visited and the results of their preaching. Saul is first identified as "Paul" in Acts 13:9.
 - Who were the leaders in the church at Antioch? (Acts 13:1)
 - While they were worshipping and fasting, what did the Holy Spirit say to these men? (Acts 13:2)
 - Why do you think they laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas?
 - On their return trip what did Paul and Barnabas do? (Acts 14:22)
 - When they arrived in Antioch, what did Paul and Barnabas do? (Acts 14:27)
 - How do you imagine the believers in Antioch felt after hearing the report of Barnabas and Paul?
 - Name the people from these passages who were encouraged by Paul and Barnabas.
- Open Records (Acts 15:22-35) During this early part of Paul's ministry, questions began to arise about whether Gentiles needed to be circumcised before they could become believers. Acts 15 provides an account of a meeting in Jerusalem when this question was discussed. Paul and Barnabas attended this meeting. Verses 22-35 tell of the results of the meeting and the message that these men and others took back to Antioch.
 - Did the apostles and elders of the church at Jerusalem require that Gentiles be circumcised before they could become believers? What did the apostles and elders require? (Acts 15:24-29)
 - How did the people of Antioch respond to the letter? (Acts 15:30)
 - How was the letter described? (Acts 15:30)
 - How do you think the believers in Antioch felt about Paul and Barnabas' role in bringing this encouraging news?
 - What encouraging news do you need today?
 - Who do you know that needs encouragement today?
- Open Hearts (Acts 15:36-41) Paul and Barnabas plan to visit those people they met on their first missionary journey.
 - What did Paul suggest to Barnabas? (Acts 15:36)
 - What did Barnabas want to do? (Acts 15:37)
 - Why didn't Paul want John Mark to come along?
 - How did Paul and Barnabas resolve their conflict?
 - How do you think John Mark felt during this conflict? How do you think he felt when Barnabas insisted that he be included?
 - Was Barnabas wrong to insist that John Mark be a part of the mission? Why or why not?
 - Do you know anyone who has made a mistake and needs encouragement? What will you do?

Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

August	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
22	Esther 2:1-4:17	Romans 14:13-15:13	102:18-22	20:26-27
23	Esther 5:1-7:10	Romans 15:14-33	102:23-28	20:28-29
24	Esther 8:1-10:3	Romans 16:1-27	103:1-5	21:1-3
25	Job 1:1-3:26	I Cor. 1:1-19	103:6-14	21:4-5
26	Job 4:1-6:10	I Cor. 1:20-2:9	103:15-22	21:6-7
27	Job 6:11-8:22	I Cor. 2:10-3:15	104:1-9	21:8-9
28	Job 9:1-10:22	I Cor. 3:16-4:13	104:10-15	21:10-11
29	Job 11:1-13:12	I Cor. 4:14-5:13	104:16-23	21:12-14

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Stephen - Revelation 2:10

To examine the faithfulness of Stephen and be challenged to live for the cause of Christ even unto death.

MONDAY - AUGUST 23, 2010

Read Acts 6:1-7

1In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

The 12 disciples are busy with ministry and things and people are being overlooked, especially widows. Stephen was one of the seven chosen to take care of task like waiting on tables in the distribution of food.

- How is Stephen described?
- What does it mean to be full of faith?
- What would be different in your life if you were full of faith?

TUESDAY - AUGUST 24, 2010

Read Acts 6:8-15

8Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, 10but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. 11Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God." 12So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. 13They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. 14For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." 15All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen is here described as a man full of God's grace and power. He did miracles among the people, yet he was serving the tables.

- How would you describe his humility?
- Does your humility reflect that of Stephen?
- Why were some people stirring up false witnesses against Stephen?

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 25, 2010

Read Acts 6:8-15

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Verses 12-15 Stephen is being brought to the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council) and put on trial.

- What were their claims against him?
- What was false about their claims?
- What did they see was different about his face?
- Why was it different?

THURSDAY - AUGUST 26, 2010

Read Acts 7:1-53

1Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?" 2To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 3'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'4"So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. 5He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. 6God spoke to him in this way: 'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. 7But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.'[b] 8Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. (not all verses printed due to space)

Stephen speaks to the Sanhedrin in response to the false charges being brought against him. Look carefully at the details he provides.

- What is he trying to communicate?
- Is he harsh or confrontational with any of his words?
- What does he call them and why?
- What does he say about their fathers?
- What does he say about them?

FRIDAY - AUGUST 27, 2010

Read Acts 7:54-60

54When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

After hearing Stephen's response they are furious and ready to execute him.

- What did Stephen look up and see?
- What did they do to him?
- Who was there overseeing the stoning?
- What were Stephen's final prayers?
- Look up and read Acts 6:8 again. Was he really a man full of God's grace to the very end?