

Session II: Acts of the Apostles Activity Sheet

In Acts, we are introduced to one of the “prophets” of the early Church: Barnabas. He lived out the prophetic call in his generosity to the poor, by offering a welcoming hand to a one-time enemy of the Way, and by encouraging a young believer to return to active ministry.

1. Share with your small group someone who has been a “Barnabas” to you in your life.

2. Choose one or all three of the following groups and reflect on how you may share a word of encouragement, a comforting presence, or build up one of them. In each grouping, identify a specific person and a concrete action you can perform in the next week to bless them (e.g. send a card, make a phone call, take them out to lunch, etc.). Share with the group, if you are comfortable.
 - a. A Mentor, Parent, or Close Friend

 - b. A Peer, Co-worker, Ministry Partner, Neighbor

 - c. A Child, Grandchild, Student, or Person you are discipling

It was the courageous witness of the earliest Christians that helped to begin to transform the Roman Empire in a single generation. At the heart of what it means to be a disciple is to “make disciples,” and that begins with a clear, confident witness of the Good News of Jesus Christ. It doesn’t mean going door to door, but rather being “ready always to give an answer to anyone who asks us a reason of the hope that is in us, with gentleness and respect.” - 1 Peter 3:15. One way to do that is to commit your own “story,” your testimony to memory, so that when opportunity presents itself you have a “ready” answer. A short paragraph, 100 words or less, is sufficient to begin a fruitful dialogue, trusting the work of conversion to the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:6).

3. Take a few minutes today to sketch out the possible themes of your story and refine the story over the next couple of weeks. For example, “I am a cradle Catholic and my religion has always been important to me, but it wasn’t until I was an adult and I attended a retreat that my faith really came alive, God was real and personal to me. It changed the way I experienced the Mass and Reconciliation. Now the Sacraments are infused with new meaning, and expression of my relationship with a God who loves me.”

My Story: