

Welcome	Can you remember a time when someone stood by you to give you encouragement and which has made a significant difference to where you are today?
Worship	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship: 210 I give you all the honour; 633 You laid aside your majesty; 851 I will offer up my life; 2034 Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord (NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
Word (refs.)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i>
<u>Read</u> Acts 4:32-37 and Acts 11:19-30 (also Acts 9:23-31 if you have time)	<p>This week we are looking at the example of Barnabas, his generosity of spirit and his generous giving in response to the needs of the early church.</p> <p>In <u>Acts 4</u> Barnabas is given as an example of how the early Christians responded to the needs of the church family (and contrasting with chapter 5 vv.1-11). What was the Jerusalem church's attitude to possessions/ money in general (v.32) and how did this affect their willingness to give (vv.34-5)? Do you think Barnabas was given his nickname <u>before</u> or <u>because of</u> his generosity recorded in these verses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...distributed to anyone as he had need" (v.35). Are we sufficiently aware of the needs of the local / wider church? If so, what is our response? If not, how can we rectify this? • What ways have you found helpful to find out from God what it is right for you to give to him, and in reviewing this regularly? <p>In <u>Acts 9:26-28</u>, we see Barnabas 'encouraging' Saul (Paul) by being a faithful friend. How does he do this practically? In what ways could you encourage and support someone this week? (eg someone finding it hard to feel part of the church for some reason).</p> <p>In Acts 11:19-30, Barnabas was sent by the church in Jerusalem to join the leadership of the church in Antioch in Syria. What was his response when he arrived (v.23) and as the church grew (v.25-6)? What can we learn from this?</p>
John 15:12-17	<p>Jesus calls the disciples to 'bear fruit'. How far does Acts 11.24 summarises what it means to have a fruitful life?</p> <p>Barnabas was not perfect (see e.g. Acts 15:36-39) but he will always be known as someone who was 'full of the Holy Spirit'. Could this be said of us? In what ways can we seek to be 'full of the Holy Spirit' in what we say and do and in who we are?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for opportunities to be 'Barnabases' (generous givers and faithful friends) in your place of work, friendship groups, family or neighbourhood; for people to invite to the Father's Day service this Sunday and to the bring-and-share BBQ afterwards. <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ to be an active encourager this week for someone you know who needs it! ❖ an activity as a group during June or July to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, garden party, etc.)