

Discovering Life Together
Today's Talk: Encourage
Acts 11:19-26, 1 Thessalonians 5:11

NOTES: E - Encourage

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Who has discipled you and/or made an impact in your walk with God and others? What did they specifically do or say that helped you? Discuss.

The Basics: We start 2019 with a series titled *Discovering Life Together*, focusing on the foundational principles and practices of discipleship. The goal is that **every person will make a difference in one life this year**. This series will enable every disciple to make a disciple. We will use the acronym EQUIP – we are to Encourage, Qualify, Understand, Instruct and Pray for one another. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 4:11-12. The church is to make disciples of all nations and equip one another for the works of ministry. What does this mean to you? How can the church (NMC) fulfill these Biblical mandates?

Quick Fire Round:

1. Read Mark 1:16-20, Mark 3:13-19, Mark 6:7-13 and John 14:1-12. During His public ministry Jesus specifically equipped 12 men. Why and how did He do this? Consider the E of EQUIP. How did Jesus *encourage* His disciples from the beginning of His ministry to the very end?
2. Barnabas is an example of an encourager. Read the following verses and discover different ways he did this: Acts 4:36-37, Acts 9:26-30, Acts 13:4-12, Acts 14:1-18 and Acts 15:36-41. What stands out to you and why?
3. Read Acts 1:8, 8:1-4, 9:31 and Acts 11:19-21. What was the result of church persecution? Was this intended? Discuss.
4. Read Acts 11:19-26. How did Barnabas encourage the Antioch church? What did he see that encouraged him? Why did he look for Saul and how did they encourage the local church together? What personal applications can you make from Barnabas' character and choices to equip and encourage others?

The challenge: Barnabas encouraged churches and equipped individuals. *He sought, he brought, and he taught*. Who can you seek out, who can you take with you and who can you teach this year? What reservations or fears do you have? Equipping another as a disciple starts with encouragement. Who can you seek out to equip and encourage? Pray and intentionally invite someone to walk with you through 2019 (look in your circles of influence, the person is likely there!)