

Living Stones Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. In what house, apartment, or other type of residence have you lived the longest?
2. What's one area of your life in which you are more likely to be an "early adopter?"

Read the following passages: Matthew 16:18; 1 Peter 2:4-5; Acts 4:32-37.

Jesus promised that he would build his church, and that nothing would be able to stop it. Even more striking, he has committed to build his church through his people! Throughout the book of Acts we encounter many different people whom God used to build his church. In their stories we can see our own stories.

Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus. He likely had some degree of social status and he clearly had some financial means. So what did he do with all that God blessed him with? 1) He was generous. 2) He helped outsiders become insiders. 3) He embraced leadership. 4) He served people in their time of need. 5) He sacrificed for the mission. And 6) he fought for the next generation.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. How can the reality of Jesus's sovereign reign over all things bring us peace when it feels like the world, or our personal world, is shaking?
2. Generosity was a defining characteristic of the early church (see Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35). Do you find it difficult to be generous? Explain. What percentage of your income do you give away? What does generosity look like when we are in need ourselves?
3. When was the last time you invited somebody to a Freedom Church event? What would make it easier for you to invite somebody to a church service?
4. How can you help somebody else walk in the purpose God has for their life?
5. In your opinion, what are the characteristics of a good leader? What made Jesus a good leader? What steps do you need to take in order to grow as a leader in God's kingdom?
6. There are many times we need to make sacrifices to help other people. What's one way you have been able to help other people that has also been life-giving to you?
7. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How can Jesus's example of sacrifice inspire our own sacrifices?

8. Barnabas was loyal to John Mark even after a significant failure. How can we model a similar behavior in our relationships? What's the difference between empowering somebody to move forward in a healthy way and enabling them to continue in dysfunctional patterns or relationships?

Pray