

## Living Stones - Barnabas

### South Jersey Small Group Guide

#### Warm-Up Questions

1. What's one thing from this past week that left you feeling encouraged—or drained?
2. Growing up, did you think of church more as a **place you go** or a **people you belong to**? Why do you think that is?

**Key Passage:** 1 Peter 2:4-5; Acts 4:32-37; Acts 9:26-27; Acts 11:19-24, 27-30; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 15:36-40

#### Recap

In this week's message, we looked at the life of Barnabas—a man who never chased the spotlight, but quietly helped build the early church. Barnabas was generous, helped outsiders belong, embraced leadership over time, served people in need, sacrificed for the mission, and fought for the next generation.

What stood out most was that Barnabas wasn't exceptional because of talent or charisma, but because of **faithfulness**. He paid attention to people. He showed up consistently. And over time, God used his ordinary obedience to build something lasting.

As we talk together, the goal isn't to measure ourselves against Barnabas, but to ask an honest question:

**What might God be forming in me right now as one of His "living stones"?**

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

1. When you hear the phrase "*living stone*," what emotions or images come up for you—connection, pressure, purpose, uncertainty? Why do you think that is?
2. Barnabas lived a life of quiet faithfulness before anyone ever called him a leader. Where in your life do you feel unseen right now—and how does that affect the way you show up?
3. The sermon suggested that generosity is often blocked more by fear than by selfishness. What fears tend to surface for you when you think about giving—whether that's money, time, energy, or trust?
4. Barnabas helped outsiders become insiders by taking relational risks. What makes belonging feel easy for you in community—and what makes it feel hard or unsafe?
5. Think about a season when someone believed in you *after* a failure or setback. How did that shape you, and what did it teach you about grace?
6. Barnabas embraced leadership slowly, as people learned they could trust him. Where might God be inviting you into greater responsibility—not through a title, but through faithfulness?
7. The early church responded to real needs without pressure or guilt. What helps you feel free and willing to respond to need? What tends to shut your heart down?

8. As you look at your life honestly right now, what do you sense God might be forming in you beneath the surface—even if it feels unfinished or unclear?

**Pray**