



SDG Discussion Guide

1Cor 11:1; 1Tim 1:12-14;
Acts 26:9-11, 15-16; Acts 9:26-28;
Acts 13:43; Eph 2:8-10

August 5, 2018

For starters:

What do you fear most about speaking to a group (if anything)?

When have you had to appear before an important or powerful person or group when your fate was in their hands: (a) Defending yourself in a moral or legal matter? (b) Asking for a pay raise or other change in your job? (c) Asking your parents or family for approval for an important decision? How did you feel as you prepared what to say?

When have friends helped you out of a difficult situation?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passages in your group. Provided you can, read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. At Acts 9:26-28, what led Barnabas to help Saul? He felt sorry for him? He let Saul tell his story? He was motivated by love rather than fear? Other? Elaborate on your answer.
2. What is the relationship between God's grace and good works (Eph 2:8-10)?
3. How do you handle situations where your faith or conviction is criticized or questioned? Ask God to give you strength? Thrive in those situations? Wilt? Other?
4. What changes did people notice when you began to follow Jesus? How did others react?
5. Paul's obedience to Jesus resulted in a trial very similar to Jesus' trial. How has your obedience to Jesus resulted or not resulted in similarities to Jesus' experience?
6. What has God's grace meant to you in your life? What good work do you feel God may have in mind for you?
7. Who has been a Barnabas to you? How? Whom have you served as a Barnabas?
8. Where do you need Christ's mercy and unlimited patience in your life right now?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw near to you anew in this time. Pause, wait, and expect his presence. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in these passages. Ask him to show you where his grace is demonstrated in your life. Ask him to encourage you in how you may respond anew to his grace. Take action this week towards that person or two in your mind to whom you may be a Barnabas.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).