

A TIME TO ENCOURAGE

"Encouragement" means to "put heart into somebody." (French)

"Encouragement" also means in Greek "to hold on to someone."



Opposites could be: discouraged, depressed, disappointed, hopeless, lack of confidence, unhappiness, in despair, aimless, stalled, distracted rebellious, dead end, sin

The box of opposites describes who needs to be encouraged.

1. What are we supposed to do?

a. (Romans 15:1) _____

b. (Galatians 6:1-2) _____

c. (1 Thess. 5:11) _____

2. What is the discouraged person supposed to do? (Psalm 31:24)

*Check out this verse more closely. **"Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord."***

3. Do you think that a person who is depressed & discouraged can do this verse? Maybe, they won't allow themselves to be encouraged (push people away). Maybe, they are not remotely interested in God right now. Explain.

It appears to me that sometimes, we have to step up to the plate even when the person is not able or not willing to ask for help. They can get so numb & depressed that they cannot see straight.

4. Write out Proverbs 3:5-6. _____

Possibly you needed someone once; maybe you attempted to help someone.

5. Why did the converted killer, Saul of Tarsus, need encouragement? (Acts 9:26)
 - a. Saul _____ to join the disciples.
 - b. They were all _____ of him.
 - c. They did not _____ that he was a _____.
6. What did Barnabas do to encourage Saul? (Acts 9:27)
 - a. Barnabas _____ Saul to the _____.
 - b. Barnabas told them that Saul had been converted on the road.
 - c. Barnabas said that Saul _____ boldly about _____.
7. Saul had to be sent to Tarsus because his life was in danger. 14 years passed.
 - a. (9:25) Barnabas departed for Tarsus to _____.
 - b. (9:26) Did he find Saul? ___Yes ___No
 - c. (9:26) Barnabas _____ to Antioch.

Antioch was where the disciples (church leaders) had their headquarters. They had Saul in training for 1 year.

8. What assignment were Barnabas & Saul given after the 1 year? (11:30)

-
9. While on the road, Barnabas the veteran and the Saul the rookie definitely had a lot of alone time; Saul would have had rough edges. Could Barnabas have said:
 - a. ___Yes ___No Saul, I enjoy spending time with you; I like you.
 - b. ___Yes ___No Saul, you work hard; you do it well; I am proud of you.
 - c. ___Yes ___No Saul, you're probably dried out; here's some water.
 - d. ___Yes ___No Saul, I love you; you're God's gift. Here's a hug.
 - e. ___Yes ___No Remember that great time we had on the lake?

Ok, it's a stretch but oh how encouraging that would feel.

A servant is someone who gets excited about making someone else successful.

Barnabas' positive strokes to Saul were felt by Saul & seen by all who watched. Barnabas was not hung up on himself. He wanted God to be pleased & the Gospel message to be heard.

10. Write down the order of their names in these verses:

- a. (13:2) _____ & _____
- b. (13:7) _____ & _____
- c. (13:43) _____ & _____
- d. (13:46) _____ & _____
- e. (14:14) _____ & _____

Saul (Hebrew name) changed to Paul (Roman name) as he traveled more throughout the Empire populated mostly by non-Jews.

Notice that Paul became more dominant on the team as he became more skilled.

We can thank Barnabas for encouraging Paul (the great missionary). Look around for those who need your attention, your love & your encouragement.