

LESSON 7
BRING OUT THE BEST
ACTS 13:1—14:28



1 What happened this week that encouraged you?

2 How did you encourage someone else?



Read Acts 13:1—14:28, the Profiles of John Mark and Barnabas, and the following notes:

☐ 13:13 ☐ 13:14, 15 ☐ 14:18–20 ☐ 14:23

3 Why did Saul and Barnabas go on their missionary trip (13:1–3)?

4 What caused them to take the gospel message to the Gentiles (13:44–47)?

5 What problems did they encounter (13:6–8, 44, 45, 50; 14:1–7, 11–19)?

6 What does the name *Barnabas* mean? How did Barnabas live up to his name (4:36; 13:43; 14:21–28)?

7 Why did Saul need Barnabas’s encouragement? Why did John Mark need encouragement?

8 What discourages Christians today?



When Saul (later called Paul), fresh from his conversion to Christ, returned to Jerusalem, the believers were understandably afraid of him and reluctant to welcome him into their fellowship. Barnabas, however, acted as Saul’s advocate as he encouraged the church to accept Saul as a fellow believer. Later, Saul and Barnabas became close traveling companions as they were sent out to preach, to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. At first we read

about “Barnabas and Saul” (13:2, 7). Soon, however, Saul (Paul) began to receive top billing. Yet there was no sign of hard feelings or wounded pride from Barnabas. Graciously he pushed Saul to the forefront and allowed him to lead. Then came the incident with young John Mark, Barnabas’s nephew. Paul gave up on John Mark after he deserted them at Perga (13:13). But Barnabas believed in Mark and chose to travel with him on the second missionary journey (15:36–41). Barnabas worked to develop John Mark into a strong church leader. Who has encouraged you in the faith? To whom can you be a “Barnabas”?

9 How do people in your church encourage others?



10 What leaders do you know who need your encouragement?

11 What young Christians need to be encouraged in the faith?



12 Whom will you encourage this week, and what could you do to encourage that person?

A Why did the Jewish leaders in Pisidian Antioch slander Paul and Barnabas (13:44–50)? When have you seen similar reactions to outstanding Christians? What did you do?

B Why did the people in Lystra begin to worship Paul and Barnabas (14:8–13)? How did the crowds change just a short time later (14:18, 19)? What does this tell you about praise, adulation, and popularity?

C In what ways were Saul (Paul) and Barnabas persecuted (13:1—14:28)? How did they respond? How do you react to persecution?

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