

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

**Talking About the Message Start Sharing & . NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.**

**Open:** Paul & Barnabas split over whether or not to take John Mark with them on the next missionary journey. It shows that a great victory can be followed by great resistance and turmoil. There can be spiritual warfare after a great victory.

1. **15:36 Paul's Heart.** What does it mean when we say, "they are heavy on our hearts?" **A.** God impressed them on our hearts. We are constantly thinking of them; unable to shake thoughts of them. What should be our response to this normal occurrence? **A.** Take action. Contact the person in some way.
2. What kind of heart do we see in Paul? **A.** The heart of a pastor. He not only wanted to Win, he desired to Disciple and Send. Point: We should pray for and cultivate a pastors heart.
3. In the face of danger, did Paul hesitate to revisit the churches? **A.** No. **Romans 8:31-32 & 37-39**
4. **15:37-38 Determined & Insistence.** How did Paul view John Marks departure, described in **13:13**? **A.** The wording of 13:13 makes it seem as a normal going home; Paul viewed his departure as a desertion. What had Paul determined about John Mark personally? **A.** He was unworthy and underserving to go. He did not trust him.
5. What was the attitude of Barnabas regarding taking John Mark with them? **A.** He was determined – *resolved & decided*. He would not be dissuaded by his good friend Paul. What may we surmise Barnabas wanted to give John Mark? **A.** A second chance.
6. What should be our approach to labeling others as failures? **A.** Don't do it. We need to show them grace. What might failure have done for the person? **A.** It may have matured them.
7. What differing viewpoints did Paul & Barnabas have regarding people and ministry? **A.** Paul asked, "what can that person do for the ministry/the gospel?" Barnabas asked, "what can the ministry do for the person?" Are both views valid? **A.** Yes. But what must the two views be? **A.** Balanced.
8. **15:39-41 Sharp Contention.** What can we learn from the sharp contention between Paul & Barnabas? **A.** 1. Believers can & do disagree; 2. We don't always have to separate in disagreement; 3. Disagreements may not be between us, but how we think about someone else. **2Thes 3:11-12**
9. How do we view and respond to people who fail in ministry? **A.** Don't label them as failures. It's not biblical or graceful. Mistakes need discipleship and to be ministered to.
10. Can both sides be right? **A.** Yes, each in their own way. Although Paul & Barnabas were no longer a single team, the split resulted in two strong teams. **Romans 8:28**

**Observations:** 1. Mark failed, but he got back up. **Prov 24:16**; 2. Barnabas saw past Mark's failure and saw his potential; 3. John Mark matured and learned his lessons. John Mark reconciled with Paul. **2Tim 4:11**; 4. John Mark was given a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance. This is an example of the Grace of God. **Psalms 75:7**; 5. John Mark, despite his failure, proved to be trustworthy & loyal. **Note:** Now Silas gets an opportunity to travel with and minister with Paul.

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 7

discussion | study 24469

Sometimes Good Friends Part Ways

Acts 15:36-41

Pastor Ed Taylor