

A photograph of four people standing on a grassy hill, hugging each other from behind. They are silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunset sky. The scene is warm and emotional. The text 'ENCOURAGER' is overlaid in large white letters within a white rectangular frame.

ENCOURAGER

AM I A BARNABAS?

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1. Encouragers are **UNSELFISH** (Acts 4:32–37)

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Acts 4:32–37

³²Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, ³⁵and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

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Acts 4:32–37

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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1. Encouragers are **UNSELFISH** (Acts 4:32–37)
2. Encouragers are **COURAGEOUS** (Acts 9:26–28)

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Acts 9:26–28

²⁶When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple. ²⁷Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸Saul was coming and going with them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

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1. Encouragers are **UNSELFISH** (Acts 4:32–37)
2. Encouragers are **COURAGEOUS** (Acts 9:26–28)
3. Encouragers are **DISCERNING** (Acts 11:21–24)

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Acts 11:21-24

²¹The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. ²²News about them reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. ²³When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, ²⁴for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And large numbers of people were added to the Lord.

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2. Encouragers are **COURAGEOUS** (Acts 9:26–28)
3. Encouragers are **DISCERNING** (Acts 11:21–24)
4. Encouragers are **HUMBLE** (Acts 14:11–12, 14–15)

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Acts 14:11-12, 14-15

¹¹When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

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Acts 14:11-12, 14-15

¹⁴The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their robes when they heard this and rushed into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵“People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming good news to you, that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.

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4. Encouragers are **HUMBLE** (Acts 14:11–12, 14–15)
5. Encouragers are **GRACIOUS** (Acts 15:36–40)

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Acts 15:36–40

³⁶After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they’re doing.” ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. ³⁸But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work.

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Acts 15:36–40

³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus. ⁴⁰But Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord.

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