

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 12/13 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

ICEBREAKER: When you were growing up, what was your favorite television show? Why?

1. **Read Acts 11:1-3.** Why was Peter criticized? What are some issues that Christians debate today? What should be the focus of all our differences?
2. **Read Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:22-24.** What do you learn about Barnabas in these passages? What characteristics of Barnabas would you most desire to have?
3. **Read Acts 11:26.** What does the name “Christian” mean? What two issues did this name present for the early believers?
4. Discuss what it means to be an encourager. Decide how your group as a whole or as individuals can demonstrate encouragement to others this coming week.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 11:1-3 ESV

Peter Reports to the Church

11 Now the apostles and the brothers^[a] who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party^[b] criticized him, saying, **3** “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Acts 4:36-37 ESV

36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, **37** sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 9:26-27 ESV

Saul in Jerusalem

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 11:22-24 ESV

22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. **23** When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, **24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Acts 11:26 ESV

26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Source: biblegateway.com