

## QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015 THE BARNABAS WAY (1) Encouragement through giving

In this three week series – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>; 13<sup>th</sup>; 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 we are looking at the power and presence of encouragement through the eyes of the New Testament leader - Barnabas.

- Note the call to encourage one another in **1 Thessalonians 5:11**
- How can the church be a community of mutual support?

As we think about the encouragement of giving – read again the summary verses that give a powerful picture of the new born church, **Acts 2:42-47**

In your group there will not be time to unpack these verses except to see the identity these believers had together that in turn became a powerful evangelistic tool.

**Acts 4:32-37** is a further summary statement of life of the first believers in Jerusalem.

- What are some of the characteristics we can note that particularly reflect their identity as a community of faith?
- What are the lessons for us today in a very different era?
- In what way was their life

We have the powerful example of Barnabas – who sold a plot of land **Acts 4:36-37**

- Does this mean that we too are to sell up?
- What are the underlying principles being expressed by Barnabas?

**Acts 11:24** *He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*

The wider context of the Church in Antioch we will look at next week. Take this summary verse regarding Barnabas and be challenged by the qualities that stand out in his life. How about praying – *Lord make me like Barnabas!*

Alan mentioned **four principles in the giving of Barnabas:**

- It was supernatural
- It was spiritual
- It was sacrificial
- It was service

What are the challenges for us in this whole area of being an encouragement through our giving?

The giving is not simply financial giving – there is the giving of our time, energy, our gifting and much more besides.

We are called to the ministry of encouragement – remember how God is the God of encouragement. **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*