GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Barnabas - Son of Encouragement **September 1,2024**
Week 4: Face Conflict Boldly **Jeff Griffin**
Acts 15:36-41

Even though Barnabas was outstanding at encouragement, the Bible describes four different conflicts that he faced with Paul and others. Barnabas resolved the conflict masterfully, and in doing so, he demonstrated for us four skills useful in resolving disagreements.

Kicking It Off:

Jeff declared his resolve to rinse dishes completely before putting them in the dishwasher. He also prefers to run the dishwasher every night no matter how few dishes may need washing. Tell the group about your dish washing idiosyncrasies.

Discussion:

1. Reread Acts 13:13 (NLT) *Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship and landed at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.*

This verse marks the first time Paul's name is listed first. Prior to this verse, the Bible refers to "Barnabas and Paul." After this verse, the Bible refers to "Paul and Barnabas." Barnabas does not get upset about Paul stealing the leadership role. Barnabas is "**Accommodating**." We too must not always fight to get our way. In what ways are you accommodating with others?

2. Reread Galatians 2:11-13 (NLT) *When Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. Peter wouldn't eat with Gentile believers who were not circumcised.*

Other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray. Originally, Barnabas was convinced that Gentile converts needed to follow the Old Testament law. Paul persuaded Barnabas to change his position. We too must be "**Open-minded**" when talking with people having differing convictions. How can we discuss politics with someone of the opposite party in a civil manner?

3. Reread Act 15:26 (NLT) *The apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue.*

This verse is a reference to the "Council of Jerusalem." Barnabas was committed to follow the ruling of this church authoritative committee. He was "**Submissive**." What authority do you struggle to submit to?

4. Reread Acts 15:37-40 (NLT) *Barnabas wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and traveled throughout Syria.*

Barnabas was "**Assertive**." Can you share with the group a time that you found it necessary to distance yourself from someone?

Wrapping It Up:

Pray that God would provide you the wisdom, strength and courage needed to address conflict that arises in your relationships.