

# “The Qualities of a Friend”

## Introduction:

Write down one word that describes a friend: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Barnabas gives us a clear picture of a friend

### 1. A Friend Encourages Me.

<sup>36</sup>“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” - Acts 4:36-37

“You can’t hold a man down without staying down with him.”  
- Booker T. Washington

### 2. A Friend is There for You (Accessible).

<sup>26</sup>“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” - Acts 9:26-27

“A friend is one who comes in when the whole world goes out.”

### 3. A Friend Builds Bridges.

<sup>23</sup>“When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.” - Acts 11:23

Some people are fence builders while others are bridge builders.

#### **Fence Builders**

insecure

closed (closed-minded, unsharing)

identity (all know who I am)

withdraws (shuts doors)

holds you back (not let you out)

#### **Bridge Builders**

secure

open (transparent, vulnerable)

potential (imp. who I become)

initiates (starts friendships)

lets you go (wants best for you)

### 4. A Friend is Consistent.

<sup>13</sup>“From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.” - Acts 13:13

<sup>37</sup>“Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus...” - Acts 15:37-39

“False friends are like our shadow, keeping close to us while we walk in sunshine but leaving us when we come into the shade.”

### 5. A Friend Wants Me to Succeed.

<sup>1</sup>“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” - Acts 13:1-3

<sup>13</sup>“From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia”-Acts 13:13

“To be great is to be misunderstood.” - Emerson

“There’s always something about your success that displeases even your best friends.” - Mark Twain

## Jesus has qualities to be my best friend.

### • Jesus Encourages Me.

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you; not as the world gives... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” - John 14:27

### • Jesus is Accessible.

Jesus Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5

### • Jesus Builds Bridges.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lays down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13

### • Jesus is Consistent.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” - Hebrews 13:8

### • Jesus Wants Me to Succeed.

“I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” - John 10:10

# “The Qualities of a Friend”

## Introduction:

Write down one word that describes a friend: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Barnabas gives us a clear picture of a friend

### 1. A Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Me.

<sup>36</sup>“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” - Acts 4:36-37

“You can’t hold a man down without staying down with him.”  
- Booker T. Washington

### 2. A Friend is \_\_\_\_\_ for You (Accessible).

<sup>26</sup>“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” - Acts 9:26-27

“A friend is one who comes in when the whole world goes out.”

### 3. A Friend Builds \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>23</sup>“When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.” - Acts 11:23

Some people are fence builders while others are bridge builders.

#### Fence Builders

insecure

closed (closed-minded, unsharing)

identity (all know who I am)

withdraws (shuts doors)

holds you back (not let you out)

#### Bridge Builders

secure

open (transparent, vulnerable)

potential (imp. who I become)

initiates (starts friendships)

lets you go (wants best for you)

### 4. A Friend is \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>13</sup>“From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.” - Acts 13:13

<sup>37</sup>“Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus...” - Acts 15:37-39

“False friends are like our shadow, keeping close to us while we walk in sunshine but leaving us when we come into the shade.”

### 5. A Friend Wants Me to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup>“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” - Acts 13:1-3

<sup>13</sup>“From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia”-Acts 13:13

“To be great is to be misunderstood.” - Emerson

“There’s always something about your success that displeases even your best friends.” - Mark Twain

## Jesus has qualities to be my best friend.

### • Jesus Encourages Me.

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you; not as the world gives... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” - John 14:27

### • Jesus is Accessible.

Jesus Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5

### • Jesus Builds Bridges.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lays down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13

### • Jesus is Consistent.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” - Hebrews 13:8

### • Jesus Wants Me to Succeed.

“I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” - John 10:10