

Five Characteristics of an Encourager

➤ Five Characteristics of an Encourager

1. Encouragers believe that people are more _____ than things.

1) Barnabas sells his field to _____ others

... the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need. (Acts 4:36-37)

2) Other things that can take priority over people – _____

* **Resulting Benefit:** When you put people first, your life will fill up with _____.

2. Encouragers believe in _____, they affirm them and give them the benefit of the doubt.

1) Barnabas believed in Saul (Paul) and convinced the other disciples in Jerusalem to _____ him.

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They thought he was only pretending to be a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus. Barnabas also told them what the Lord had said to Saul and how he boldly preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Then the apostles accepted Saul, and after that he was constantly with them in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. (Acts 9:26-28)

2) Your family needs your _____.

* **Resulting Benefit:** When you let your mate and children know you believe in them, your life will fill up with _____.

3. Encouragers allow people to grow out of _____ them.

1) Barnabas got Paul to help him.

However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to Gentiles[□] about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was upon them, and large numbers of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

When he arrived and saw this proof of God's favor, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And large numbers of people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to find Saul. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching great numbers of people. (It was there at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) (Acts 11:20-25)

2) Your children's growing out of dependence on you is called "growth."

* **Resulting Benefit:** If you will allow your mate and children (and whoever you mentor) to grow out of needing you so much, your life will fill up with _____.

4. Encouragers allow people to _____.

1) John Mark

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's return to each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are getting along." Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not shared in their work. Their disagreement over this was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and the believers sent them off, entrusting them to the Lord's grace. (Acts 15:36-40)

2) Do you allow people you love to fail when they didn't take your advice? By not showing you enough gratitude or appreciation? By letting them do it themselves?

* **Resulting Benefit:** If you allow your family to make mistakes without condemnation, your life will fill up with _____.

5. Encouragers leave the _____ in God's hands.

1) Barnabas mentored Paul, then let him go.

...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. (1 Thess 2:7)

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (1 Thess 2:11,12)

2) How did Paul change? By watching Barnabas.

* **Resulting Benefit:** If you stop trying to manipulate the results and leave them in God's hands, your life will fill up with _____.

➤ **Recap – Conclusion**

1. Encouragers believe that people are more important than things. Resulting Benefit = _____
2. Encouragers believe in people. Resulting Benefit = _____
3. Encouragers allow people to grow out of needing them. Resulting Benefit = _____
4. Encouragers allow people to fail. Resulting Benefit = _____
5. Encouragers leave the results in God's hands. Resulting Benefit = _____

If you could pick your nickname from the five benefits (Harmony, Love, Peace, Patience, Joy), what would it be? Write it down. Will you make the investment in earning it?

*And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, **encourage** the timid, help the weak, **be patient with everyone.** (1 Thess. 5:14)*

➤ **Couple Sharing**

1. Of the five characteristics of an Encourage, which one are you lacking in the most?
2. Of the five resulting benefits, which one do you yearn for most?
3. Do the responses from #1 and #2 reflect the same Characteristic and Resulting Benefit?