

## Disagreements Among Disciples

### Lesson 3 — Student Guide

**Prepare for class:** Read Acts 14:21-28 and Acts 15:36-40

#### Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to use this story of Paul and Barnabas to discuss ways of handling disagreements about methodology while developing a chain of disciples.

#### Think

#### Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

#### Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

#### Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

#### Discussion

13. Why is it important to note that Paul and Barnabas concluded their journey by appointing elders in each place?
14. Why did Paul and Barnabas part ways?
15. In Barnabas, we see a man who was willing to put the work of the church ahead of pride as he allowed Paul to take on an increasingly prominent role. On the other hand, many of us have

witnessed times where a power struggle between leaders has hurt the work of the church. How can church leaders avoid the sin of pride and work for the greater good?

16. In city after city, Paul and Barnabas encountered serious persecution, yet they risked their personal safety to return to those cities to encourage the disciples and to appoint leaders. Why were encouragement and the appointment of leaders worth the risk of returning to those cities?
17. Paul was called to be the missionary to the Gentiles, and he wanted to make sure that nothing hindered that work (including bringing along someone who had abandoned the team). Barnabas' role was that of encourager. He wanted to make sure that a young brother in the faith (Mark) was encouraged to grow into a mature Christian leader. What was the result of their disagreement? How does that result instruct us on how we can use even our disagreements for the good of God's kingdom?

**Lesson wrap-up**

**Are we doing all we can with the Gospel even when we have disagreements**