

0 (0s):

As Matt said, my name's Scott Wenig and I am just so very, very, very grateful to be here with all of you. And if you're joining us online, I want to give you a shout out, say hi and say, welcome here to arise church. As Matt just said, I have the privilege of teaching a Denver seminary where I've taught for about 25 years. But actually I think as it's more relevant to all of us here today, I've also been a pastor on the staff of four different churches over the years. One of which I had the privilege of helping to start with some friends of mine. And so I always like to tell people that actually I'm a pastor who masquerades as a seminary professor.

0 (45s):

So it's just my privilege to be here with you and worship with you. And the best part of my life is my lovely wife, Melanie, who is down here to my right here left. And so she wanted to come over and worship with all of us as well today. So we're, we're both just very grateful to be here with you. What I want to do this morning is looking at an individual out of one of my favorite books in the new Testament, which is the book of acts. And so this morning, what we're going to do is look at three different sections out of the book of acts, acts four, and then we'll transition to acts nine. And then we'll kind of finally land in acts 15 as we look at this person because they exemplify a characteristic that I think the Lord in his mercy wants all of us to exhibit and exemplify going forward in 2021 and beyond.

0 (1m 36s):

So again, I just started this morning. What I want to do is read an initial passage out of acts chapter four, starting in verse 32. So if you brought a Bible or you have it on your phone, and I think maybe, maybe we might have it up here on the screen behind me acts chapter four, starting in verse 30,

1 (1m 55s):

Let's pay closer to it,

0 (1m 57s):

Answer to this. This has God's word to you. And

1 (1m 60s):

To me,

0 (2m 2s):

Who is the author of acts says this, all of the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had with great power. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord. Jesus and God's grace was so powerfully at work in them, all that there were no needy persons among them for, from time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and they put it at the Apostle's feet. And then it was distributed to anyone who had,

1 (2m 49s):

Well, we're gonna piggyback off

0 (2m 51s):

This text into the next couple of verses here in a minute or two. But before we do that, I'm going to ask you if you join your hearts with me in prayer Father, we thank you that the small learning this Sunday morning, we could gather together as your people, as your church to focus our time and our energy

1 (3m 13s):

G on you. Okay,

0 (3m 16s):

Lord, we know that you have loved us so much, and you've revealed that to us in the Lord, Jesus who died for our sins and Rose from the dead. And it was given us now his spirit as the promise of eternal life. Lord, I thank you so much for everybody that's here today. I thank you for a rise church and the ministry that it has internally here, but also externally to this community. And Lord, I also want to thank you for your word. I asked that you would just lead us,

1 (3m 43s):

That you would guide us that

0 (3m 46s):

Lord, you would now teach us as we look into the book of acts and we ask all of this in the great name

1 (3m 53s):

Jesus and for our sakes. Amen.

0 (3m 60s):

Well, it was probably the worst moment of his young wife without question. It was certainly the most embarrassing with 80 seconds to go and his team down by one point to the North Carolina, Tarheels in the NCAA national championship, Georgetown guard, Fred Brown dribbled the ball of court, knowing that he had a chance to throw the ball in download at one of his big men, have them score and win the national championship. Then as he came to the top of the key, he stopped his dribble and thinking that he saw one of his teammates off to the right. He threw a pass directly into the hands of James worthy.

0 (4m 44s):

There was one small problem. Worthy was the star forward for the opposing North Carolina

1 (4m 51s):

Tar Hills, a

0 (4m 52s):

Worthy dribble. The ball. The other direction was quickly fouled. And the game was,

1 (4m 58s):

Was over Fred Brown hung his head

0 (5m 3s):

And he slowly walked off the court realizing that he had quite literally thrown away the chance for a championship for himself, his teammates and his coach, John Thompson. But what did coach Thompson do in that incredibly painful moment? Did he berate Fred Brown for his mistake? Did he accuse him of stupidity? Did he humiliate him before the media?

1 (5m 31s):

Nah,

0 (5m 32s):

Coach Thompson momentarily put aside his own pain. He ran to center court. He put his arms around Fred Brown and a huge bear

1 (5m 40s):

Hug. And then he

0 (5m 43s):

Whispered words of encouragement

1 (5m 46s):

In his ear.

0 (5m 50s):

You know, all of us in this room, all of us online have gone through some excruciating, some challenging, some actually really, really painful circumstances. Over the last 14 months, we've had to endure a global pandemic. We've had to put up with lockdowns shut downs. There's been a lot of social unrest in our country. There was national controversy centered in the presidential election of 2020. For some of us here, we've lost jobs. We've lost income. Maybe even some of you here have lost a dearly beloved one, a spouse, a friend, a parent, you know, friends given everything that we have gone through over the last year.

0 (6m 45s):

I think it goes without saying that all of us in this room, all of us online, all of us as part of a rise church, need some genuine encouragement. See encouragement is absolutely vital for life and for relationships it's vital for churches. It's vital for families. It's vital for friendships. Encouragement is essential for our own emotional and spiritual wellbeing. A Christian writer, max Lucado tells about a time a few years back when he was doing the 13 mile run of a half iron man triathlon.

0 (7m 26s):

He said that after doing the swim of over a mile and then the 50 mile bike ride, he was really, really dragging. So he decided to ask the guy running next to him, how he was doing. And the guy said, this stinks. This is the dumbest thing I've ever done in my life. And all he could do was grumble and complain. So max said he decided to run a little bit ahead to the group in front of him. And there he encountered a 68 year old grandmother and she told him, you're going to finish this. Keep going. It's hot. But at least it's not raining. Just go one step at a time, keep hydrated, hang in there.

0 (8m 10s):

And then she said, I've got to go. And she sped off. He said, her words really, really pumped him up, helped him get to the finish line of that race. Some people do that for us, don't they, or they come alongside us and they encourage us and they fill our tanks up to the top. And you know, when we're around them, we always feel better and we want to live better because we know that's how the Lord has made us to live. Those kinds of people exemplify what the Lord calls us to because friends, that's the tone he set for us in the new Testament.

0 (8m 55s):

In fact, the word encouragement is used more than 100 times there. I think that that shows us that the Lord thinks that encouragement is really, really, really important for all these people. It's important for you. It's important for me now, since encouragement is so significant, what can we do to make sure that we're becoming more encouraging to all those people around us, if encouragement brings us hope and life and strength, and it brings that to our relationships and to those around us, what can we do to make sure that we're in the process of filling the tanks of other people?

0 (9m 42s):

Well, the answer those questions this morning, what I want us to do is get a little bit acquainted, better acquainted with a guy named Joe. We first find him mentioned in the book of acts and he stands out as to what an encouraging person looks like. In fact, it says that whenever Joe came around, everybody got really, really pumped up. He ministered in this way so much that eventually the apostles gave him the name Barnabas, which means son of encouragement. So what was it about him?

0 (10m 22s):

How did he live? What was it that he exemplified that caused the apostles to change his name? Well, I want us to begin by looking at the verses that fall on the ones that we just looked at there in acts four. So look with me if you will, at verses 36 and 37, Luke tells us that Joseph Olly byte from Cyprus whom the apostles called Barnabas, which means son of encouragement sold a field. He owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles feet. Now in the context of this passage, as we've just seen Luke showing us that the mentality in the early church was one of generosity in order to meet the needs of everybody in the community of faith.

0 (11m 11s):

And so in an effort to make that general observation really concrete and really personable, Luke uses Barnabas as an illustration. It seems obvious from what Luke says that Barnabas was a person of means. I mean, after all he owned some land, but because there was a need in the church, he sold the land, he took the proceeds. He gave it to the apostles so that then they could have distributed to meet the needs of others. He shows us the core essence of an encourager friends, encouragers are givers. And one of the key ways they demonstrate that is by giving generously of their resources,

1 (11m 57s):

To other people,

0 (11m 60s):

The encouragers understand that they're not owners, they're only stewards. See, they realize that God is the owner of everything that we possess and that we're simply the managers of it. And what God has entrusted to us is there to be used to meet the needs of other

1 (12m 20s):

People. Oh,

0 (12m 22s):

Barnabas knew that. And so he freely gave in order to share with others and that's what encouragers do they see their money or their time or their energy as opportunities to minister in an encouraging way. A number of years ago, I was in the process of looking for a new laptop computer. And I'm not very tech savvy. And I thought, well, who's somebody who could help me out here. There was a guy at our church who worked for Microsoft and he was kind of in the upper echelon. And I thought, if there's anybody that I know that could help me pick out the right kind of laptop, it's Dave. So I went to a church one day and I said, Hey, I'm looking for a new laptop.

0 (13m 5s):

What would you recommend for somebody like me? And he said, well, Scott given, given who you are and that you're not very smart and you're not very tech savvy, the kind of laptop you need is the Dell latitude LX. And I said, okay, great. Well, anyway, a couple of weeks later, he comes up to me at church and he says, did

you ever buy the Dell latitude lax? And I said, well, I haven't because you realize our churches in a capital campaign and I've made a commitment of resources and I'm kind of tapped out financially. So I'll probably wait another six or eight months maybe next year. And then I'll save some money and get it. And he kind of nodded and said, okay, and went on

1 (13m 36s):

His way. Well, the following

0 (13m 38s):

Wednesday, I'm sitting in my office at Denver seminary and it's about 11 o'clock in the morning and the phone rings and it's

1 (13m 44s):

Dave. And he, he says,

0 (13m 47s):

Hey, do you want to go to lunch? And I said, well, you know, lunch is one of my spiritual gifts. And of course, you know, I want to exercise it. So we met at a restaurant out here on East Hampton and he beat me there. And so when I got there, he was already in the booth and I slid in across from him and we gave our order to the server. And then after she walked away, he slides a picture across the table to me of the Dell latitude LX.

1 (14m 15s):

Now at the moment, I thought that's kind of weird. I mean, it's like

0 (14m 20s):

Showing a hungry person, a picture of a hamburger. And I said, you know, I understand this is a great laptop. And you know, I'm sure that down the road, if I save enough money, I'll probably be able to buy it. But you know, like I said, I'm kind of tapped out right now. And he goes, Oh no, no, no, don't worry about it. He said, my wife and I bought you one it's over at my office right now. And we're loading it up with Microsoft,

1 (14m 42s):

The office. I said, wow, all by lunch friends, when we do tangible For other people and act of generosity like that, and expression of hospitality, a service with our gifts, we're engaging

0 (15m 6s):

In the ministry of encouragement

1 (15m 10s):

As somebody

0 (15m 11s):

Wants said, and it is, Oh, so true.

1 (15m 15s):

People don't care how much, you know, until they know how much you care. See encouragers are givers. And the first way they express that is by

0 (15m 33s):

Giving generously of their resources, to those who are

1 (15m 36s):

In need. The second

0 (15m 39s):

Characteristic of an encourager comes to us in acts chapter nine. So if you want to turn there, let me give us a little bit of context about what's going on in this passage

1 (15m 50s):

Of scripture. In

0 (15m 52s):

Many ways, acts chapter nine is the pivotal point in the book of acts because it's here or that Luke tells us about the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Now, as most of you, if not all of, you know, Saul was a Pharisee who hated Christians and in acts chapter nine, he's on his way to the city of Damascus. He went where he wants to persecute the church and wiped them out. But along the way, he meets the resurrected and glorified Jesus and he gets converted. So then he goes into the city and he begins preaching about Jesus. And because of his preaching, the Jews in the city of Damascus planned to kill him.

0 (16m 34s):

So with the help of the small group of Christians there, he escapes. And he goes back to Jerusalem where he wants to look for support, but listen to what happens to him, starting in acts nine,

1 (16m 45s):

Verse 26, when he

0 (16m 48s):

See that his soul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him not believing that he was really

1 (16m 57s):

Disciple.

0 (17m 0s):

Now for just a moment, let's put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples in Jerusalem. I think they all had really, really good reason to be afraid of Saul. I mean, in acts chapter eight, verse three, Luke tells us that Saul was destroying or ravaging the church. And that the word that he uses there for ravage has an interesting picture behind

1 (17m 25s):

It. It's

0 (17m 27s):

A picture that describes a pig who goes into a field to destroy the field and uprooted as it, as it goes through it and overturn it. Saul's purpose was to uproot and destroy the church. In fact, at the very beginning of acts, chapter nine, Luke tells us that Saul was breathing out murderous threats against the

1 (17m 47s):

Church. So I'd say that those first Christians in Jerusalem had good reason for being concerned that Saul was back in town. But now

0 (18m 2s):

Let's look at the situation from his perspective, Oh, a few months before he's a Jew of the Jews, a Pharisee, a Pharisee, he's a crowbar against Christianity,

1 (18m 14s):

But now

0 (18m 15s):

He's come to know Jesus in a personal way. He's repetitive as sin, he's been baptized, he's preaching the gospel with really good results. People are coming to faith in Christ, but then he finds himself in trouble. He finds some self under pressure. He needs some support and he comes to Jerusalem and he can't find it anywhere.

1 (18m 36s):

Except look at verse 27, but Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.

0 (18m 46s):

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. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely

1 (18m 59s):

Jerusalem. Speaking in the name of the Lord. Oh,

0 (19m 6s):

Friends, do you see the second characteristic? I'm an encourager encouragers give genuine support to those who are in

1 (19m 14s):

Need. They're

0 (19m 16s):

The kind of people who look beyond your reputation,

1 (19m 20s):

Look beyond your past, look beyond your appearance to support you when you need it. The most,

0 (19m 29s):

One of the ministries that my wife, Melanie and I have been involved with over the last 10 years.

1 (19m 34s):

So is alternative pregnancy centers of Colorado specifically here in Denver.

0 (19m 42s):

Well, a few years back, they sent out a flyer in which they were just trying to promote their ministry and how they really try to minister to both men and women. And in this flyer, they used to quote from the diary of one of the people that they had ministered to in her name,

1 (19m 57s):

Name was Jane. And I want to share with you what she wrote.

0 (20m 2s):

She said the abortion was not like they said it would be.

1 (20m 7s):

It was not what I fought that my life would be fine.

0 (20m 12s):

I could just go on as before and get on with my life and everything would be great,

1 (20m 18s):

But that's not what happened.

0 (20m 21s):

I suffered from depression and I became horribly addicted to alcohol. I had a terrible,

1 (20m 28s):

Terrible time. I didn't understand what was going on. And then through the grace of God, he healed me.

0 (20m 41s):

I know and saw the destruction. Abortion can cause in a person's life. And I wanted to be part of helping other women overcome that devastation. If they had an abortion, I wanted to help women realize that there are other pregnancy options out there, that there are people who

1 (20m 57s):

Care like

0 (20m 59s):

The people at alternative pregnancy center, their mission is one of helping. And they believe in the woman and they give the woman real trouble.

1 (21m 9s):

Now I help women just like me, who found out that it didn't just go away and together by the grace of God, we're finding healing, Oh, friends. That's what the church needs.

0 (21m 31s):

It needs people to come alongside each other and say, I'm here for you. And your hour of need. If you want to talk, I'll sit down with you and listen. If you are in pain, I will give you a hug.

1 (21m 45s):

See

0 (21m 45s):

In the body of Christ, encouragers have really, really good theology. They know that nobody comes to Jesus with an advantage over anybody else. They know that we have all sinned, you've sinned. I sinned. We've all

fallen short of the glory of God. They know that God gives them grace

1 (22m 4s):

So that they can minister grace to others, friends

0 (22m 9s):

In the body of Christ. The motto of encouragers is no blame, no shame. I'll support you as you need

1 (22m 16s):

Speed.

0 (22m 19s):

You know, as you look here in the book of acts, I think it's really, really important to realize

1 (22m 24s):

That if Barnabas had not come up next to Saul and supported him,

0 (22m 30s):

You might not have half the new Testament which saw who became pole wrote and Christianity might've taken an entirely different.

1 (22m 37s):

Gotcha. See, Barnabas shows us direct concrete in person that increased

0 (22m 46s):

Jurors are givers. They give generously of their resources to those

1 (22m 49s):

Turn aid and they give personal support to those who need it. There's a third characteristic that is

0 (23m 0s):

Encourages exemplify. And we see that in the,

1 (23m 3s):

The second half of acts 15,

0 (23m 6s):

Let me encourage you to turn to X 15. And once again, as you do. So let me give us a little bit of background, a little bit of context for what's going on in

1 (23m 13s):

This narrative.

0 (23m 16s):

We're told that in acts 13, Paul and Barnabas are sent out by the church in Antioch on this cross-cultural mission trip. And they end up going to Asia minor, which today we would call Turkey and they go up into the middle of Asia minor. And they go to all of these cities like Iconium and Lystra and Antioch and Derbe. And they preached the gospel and they established all these churches. And then eventually they come back to Jerusalem. Well, after they left all those churches that they preached in a group of people went in behind them, called the Judaizers, who were telling their new converts. You first have to become a Jew and be circumcised before you can become a Christian. And that creates tremendous controversy. And so they call the Jerusalem council in chapter 15 of acts where they decide, no, this is a wrong view of salvation.

0 (24m 3s):

You're saved totally by faith alone in Jesus. So after the Jerusalem council, Paul and Barnabas decide, you know what we need to do. We need to go back up there into Asia minor and visit all the churches and visit all the disciples up there.

1 (24m 19s):

But they have a problem.

0 (24m 22s):

Good acts, 15 verses 37 and 38. Luke says that Barnabas wanted to take John also called Mark with them. 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.

1 (24m 43s):

Well, what,

0 (24m 43s):

What happened was they took this young guy along by the name of John Mark with them on their first missionary journey. And it started off well. But when they got to the Southern part of Asia minor to the city of Pamphylia, something happened, we're not told what, but John leaves the missionary party. And he goes back home to

1 (24m 59s):

Jerusalem. He deserted them. Well, now it's a few years later and

0 (25m 5s):

Barnabas wants to take Mark along with them again to pulses. No, he deserted us and he might do it again.

1 (25m 13s):

But Barnabas was willing to give John Mark another shot. Look at verses 39 and 40. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

0 (25m 30s):

Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. The word that Luke uses here for sharp disagreement literally can be translated, very intense

1 (25m 46s):

Conflict.

0 (25m 50s):

I kind of get the impression that Barnabas didn't like conflict very much. I think if he were around today, we might call him something of a conflict avoider. He'd rather

1 (26m 0s):

Lee then fight

0 (26m 5s):

On this occasion. He goes, toe-to-toe chest to chest eyeball to eyeball with the great apostle Paul over the ministry of young John Mark. He shows us the third characteristic of an encourager. They're the kind of people who will give others a second or a third chance. They know that one failure does not mean total failure. They know that in God's economy, failures and mistakes can always be redeemed.

1 (26m 34s):

Yeah.

0 (26m 35s):

I don't know how many of you here are online. Might be a big movie fans, but my wife, Melanie and I are big movie fans. And one of my favorite movies of all time is the movie

1 (26m 44s):

Called Seabiscuit, which is

0 (26m 46s):

Story of the great race horse from the 1930s and forties. Well, it's about Seabiscuit, but it's also about the three men who were around him, his owner, Charles Howard, his trainer, Tom Smith, and he's jockey

1 (27m 1s):

Red Pollard. Well, in

0 (27m 3s):

One key scene in the movie, Tom Smith is talking to red Pollard about an upcoming race. That was really, really important. And he told him, he said, now this other horse is going to eventually catch up with biscuit. And when he catches up with him, when he gets right to his right side and you see him just on your right, give biscuit, the whip and biscuit will take off and he'll win the race going away. Well, when the race goes, the horse comes up on biscuit side, just like Tom Smith said, except Pauler, doesn't give biscuit, the whip. And the other horse takes off and wins the race. And at the end of the race, Tom Smith is livid and he comes into the locker room and he yells at red Pollard. What's wrong with you? I told you to give him the whip.

0 (27m 44s):

When he came up on the right and Pollard, since I couldn't see him and Smith says, what do you mean you couldn't see him? And he says, I'm blind. I'm blind in my right arm.

1 (27m 54s):

And Smith's storms out of the locker room and he's walking down the steps and he runs into Charles Howard and Howard says, Tom, what's wrong.

0 (28m 3s):

And he says, he lied. He lied. You want to jockey? Who lied?

1 (28m 7s):

Yes. And Charles Howard, very gently, very graciously grabs Tom Smith by the shoulders. He sits him down and he quotes back to Smith, align that Smith had said a couple of years earlier. You don't throw away a whole life because it's been banged up a little bit. You know, friends, I don't know about you, but my life's been banged up a little bit. Along the way. A number of years ago, I went through a very serious

0 (28m 46s):

Experience of failure and I was out of ministry and I was pretty much scrambling and lost and didn't know what I was going to do. And a friend of mine, my Barnabas came alongside me and got me back in ministry. And I tell you the truth. I would not have the privilege of being here with all of you today.

1 (29m 4s):

If it wasn't for him

0 (29m 8s):

And not too long ago, one of my own students went through a similar experience of failure and it was a real opportunity for me to come alongside him and encourage him

1 (29m 16s):

Him, and kind of get him back on track. You know, as you look at John Mark and the book of acts, it might've appeared that in the short run, Paul might've been right,

0 (29m 34s):

But it's clearer than in the long run Barnabas was absolutely right. Just a few years later, Mark is ministering alongside Paul at the end of his life. Paul tells Timothy to get John Mark and bring him with you. He's got a ministry for me. Eventually Mark was the Christian leader who took the gospel down to Africa and planted the church there. And because Barnabas encouraged John Mark by giving him a second chance. We now have marks by all graphy of Jesus. The God

1 (30m 7s):

Spoonful of Mark, Oh,

0 (30m 13s):

Encouragers are givers. They give generously of their resources to those who are in need. They give support to those who are in need. They give others a second or a third or a fourth chance. And the reason they do that is they realize that God has given them his very best

1 (30m 34s):

In Jesus.

0 (30m 38s):

So that raises a question. How can we apply a message like this? Is there anything that you and I can do to improve our encouragement skills in the coming weeks and months? Well, let me make some suggestions for

1 (30m 56s):

Us here.

0 (30m 59s):

A suggestion, number one, write somebody, a note of encouragement, Tell them how much they mean to you or tell them what they did for you really, really encourage them. Tell them how thankful to the Lord you are

1 (31m 18s):

For them. Oh, a few years back, we were having some drama, Denver seminary, and I kind of inadvertently got pulled into the middle of it. And it was really painful for me. And one night I came out after work and they're on my windshield on my car was a note of incredible encouragement from my wife, Melanie, that note that she had taken the time to write meant the world. To me, suggestion, number two,

0 (31m 49s):

Give a family member, maybe your spouse or one of your kids or a sibling or a parent, give them an encouraging word. Maybe it's a word of forgiveness or maybe a word of support, or maybe a word that encourages a second or a third chance. Let them know that wherever they're at right now, you are right there with them and you will help them as they need it. Speak their love language, fill their tank and above all else above all else. Stress the positive Suggestion. Number three, find someone that you know, who has a need and then meet that need wash their car, clean their house, pay a bill for them.

0 (32m 38s):

Watch their kids for a of hours. Maybe take them to lunch or take them to coffee and exercise. The ministry of labor

1 (32m 49s):

Friends. Listen, listen, listen, encourage yours are givers.

0 (32m 55s):

Give of their resources. They give support to those who are ne they give others a second or third chance. So let's be like Barnabas. Let's make a rise church, a church filled with encouragers

1 (33m 7s):

To each other

0 (33m 8s):

And to everyone. The Lord brings our way to this church.

1 (33m 13s):

Benjamin West

0 (33m 14s):

Was a very, very famous painter and he loved to tell the story of how, when he was a kid, he loved to paint, but he wasn't

1 (33m 20s):

Any good. He said

0 (33m 23s):

That on one occasion, his mom left the house and he got all his paints out and he was going to paint this picture and he started to paint the picture and he made a mess along the way, just made a mess. And he was hoping to get the mess all cleaned up before his mom came home. But she came home early and she came in his room and she saw the mess that he had made. But instead of getting on his case, she walked over. She picked up the painting that he had

1 (33m 49s):

Painted. She said, Benjamin, that is a beautiful picture. And then she gave him a kiss and left the room. Benjamin West said

0 (34m 4s):

It was with that kiss of encouragement that he became

1 (34m 8s):

A painter. You know, every single day, all of us in this church, all of us

0 (34m 17s):

In our families, all of us with the people that we work with, all of us are trying to paint a picture with our lives. And sometimes we don't mean to, but sometimes we make a mess. And the last thing that you need, or I need, or anybody around us need is somebody to come along and say, look at the mess you've made. No, instead, instead, instead, what you need, what I need, what they need

1 (34m 39s):

Is a kiss of encouragement. Friends.

0 (34m 46s):

Let's be like Barnabas by the grace of God, by the power of the spirit. Let's encourage others. Let's give of our resources. Let's give them support. Let's give them a second or a third chance because encouragement is absolutely vital for relationships, for families, for

1 (35m 4s):

Purchase and for communities.

0 (35m 8s):

Let me pray for us. And then our terrific, terrific worship. Team's going to come up and lead us in a closing

song.

1 (35m 18s):

Father, we need

0 (35m 18s):

Major grace. We thank you that you've exemplified it in Jesus. We appreciate so much Lord, the power of your spirit. May you encourage us today so we can encourage others. And now as we sing out to you, help us to sing to the best of our ability because you are the God of encouragement. We ask this in your name and for our sake, amen.