

May 25, 2025: Influencers, Part III

This week our pastors will reflect on characters who lived lives of influence. In our contemporary services, Roger will share a message about Daniel. In our traditional service, Justin will share a message about Barnabas.

Scripture Readings:

(Daniel) Daniel 6:3-5; 6:16-23; 6:26-27

(Barnabas) Acts 4:33-36; 9:26-30; 11:19-26

Daniel was being persecuted for his faith in God. Yet, Daniel continued to trust in God and remained steadfast in his faith despite opposition from others.

- 1) How can consistent spiritual habits (like prayer) make our faith visible and compelling to those around us?
- 2) Daniel didn't hide his faith even when it became dangerous. What are some modern "lion's dens" we face when living out or speaking about our faith?
- 3) How can we be bold without being combative, and gracious without being silent when sharing our faith?
- 4) How did Daniel's faithfulness influence King Darius' understanding of God? (Daniel 6: 25-27).
- 5) In what ways does trusting God with the consequences of our obedience open the door to sharing the gospel which is good news?

Barnabas was not a main character of the book of Acts, yet his presence was indispensable during the early days of the church's mission outward.

- 6) Describe a time in your life when someone's encouragement really helped you. Describe the influence it had on you.
- 7) Barnabas had to convince the church—including the original apostles—that Paul (formerly Saul) could be trusted after his conversion. Why was this a risky move?
- 8) Has anyone ever taken a risk to speak on your behalf? Have you ever done that for someone else?
- 9) Barnabas uses encouragement to strengthen the church in its mission. In what specific ways does the church need encouragement today?
- 10) In Acts 11, Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch for an entire year, and it was in Antioch where people were first called "Christians." In what ways do we need longer forms of encouragement?
- 11) Who is one person in your life right now who could use encouragement?

May 18, 2025: Influencers, Part II

Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 9-10

Our current series is about our influence in sharing the gospel with others. Building relationships is the most effective way in faith-sharing. The apostle Paul gives us direction on how to best go about developing relationships with others.

1. Paul says that love must be sincere. What do you think Paul means by “sincere love”?
2. How important is it in being sincere when it comes to sharing the good news with someone?
3. In what ways can we grow in our sincerity?
4. Paul says to cling to what is good. How can choosing what is good influence the sharing of the good news of the gospel?
5. Paul says, “To honor one another above yourselves.” What does it mean to “honor” someone? How can “honoring someone in love” impact the sharing of the good news?
6. Who is someone outside of the realm of the church and faith that you can “honor” this week?
7. Where do you need to be more intentional in building a relationship with someone outside of the Christian faith?

May 11, 2025: Influencers, Part 1

Scripture Reading: John 1:35-42

Our current series is about our *influence* in sharing the gospel with others. On the first Easter Sunday, disciples of Jesus began witnessing to others that Jesus was risen, and his followers today are still commanded to spread the good news.

1. What people have had the greatest influence on your *life*?
2. What people have had the greatest influence on your *faith*?
(Describe what that influence has looked like.)
3. What people have you personally influenced the most in your life?
4. Are there media (or social media) “influencers” whose content you enjoy? If you are willing, share ways that you may have been shaped by such influencers?
5. In John’s gospel, Jesus’ team of disciples are assembled via personal invitation and personal discovery. Jesus tells two of John the Baptist’s disciples, “Come and see” (verse 39). In what ways do people see Jesus today?
6. Has someone close to you ever helped you to see something differently? Describe the scenario.

7. How can the church help people see Jesus?
8. Can you think of someone close to you who doesn't know Jesus and would listen to you? What would make you willing to talk to them about Jesus and invite them to church, to a small group, or to share a meal?
9. Some people think faith sharing is about trying to "prove" Jesus or to "win" conversations. Yet in today's scripture reading, people discover Jesus not through arguments, but through authentic relationships. While compelling arguments for the faith do exist, what are the dangers with first using arguments in sharing faith?