**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: I Believe in You**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Acts 9:19–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.19-30).

**Consider**

Barnabas reminds us of what it looks like to stick by someone who has a questionable past. Barnabas showed us how to push through our own concerns and judgment of a new believer, and instead, see them through a lens of grace and love. Because of that, Barnabas was able to help Paul abandon his past and pursue God wholeheartedly. This eventually led to Paul becoming a great leader in the Early Church. Imagine how differently things might have turned out for Paul—and us—if no one had stepped forward to accept him into the family of God.

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| **QUESTION**What is something you can learn from Barnabas’s example? |

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| **QUESTION**Why is it difficult at times to trust someone with a questionable past? |

**Reflect**

Reflect on your own journey with Jesus. We all come with a past, just as Paul did. For you, it may not be as awful as Paul’s was. But you may feel like people aren’t willing to see past your mistakes, or you may struggle seeing past others’ mistakes. What you can learn from Barnabas’s belief in Paul is that every new believer needs someone to believe in them.

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| **QUESTION**Are you willing to welcome and stand with those who are new to faith in Jesus? If not, why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What kind of help do you imagine you could offer to a new Christian? |

**Activate**

Take some time today to evaluate if you’re being a Barnabas. Identify someone who may need someone to encourage them in their walk with Jesus. Grab a coffee, chat with them on the phone, or spend time together outside church to let them know you’re willing to help. Be a true friend and encouragement to them.

**Pray**

God, I just want to simply thank You for Your grace in my life. Please send me a Barnabas who can talk with me about my past and my pursuit of You. Help me to be someone others can look to as well. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Accept Others**

**Engage**

Read [Romans 15:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro15.1-7).

**Consider**

Paul wrote the Book of Romans and several other books of the New Testament. It’s possible that some of what he wrote was influenced by those who accepted or rejected him at the start of his Christian walk. As a new Christian, he radically changed. But he had a hard time being accepted by some believers at first. When he wrote about acceptance into the family of God here in Romans, he encouraged his readers to accept new believers. Our acceptance of new Christians should mirror Jesus’ acceptance of us. Paul knew firsthand what it felt like to be—and not to be—welcomed by others. It seems like he didn’t want others to have to feel the same rejection he had.

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| **QUESTION**What are we encouraged to do for others in these verses? |

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| **QUESTION**Who is someone in your life who demonstrates what these verses are saying? |

**Reflect**

We are better together. This includes rallying around new believers and welcoming them into your circle of friends. Sometimes, we tend to put unrealistic conditions on accepting others, or we may give up on them. The good news is that Jesus didn’t have unrealistic conditions for us. He never gave up on us. If we love others how Jesus loves us, then we will accept and help them in their faith journey.

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| **QUESTION**Do you accept others just as Jesus accepted you? Why or why not? |

**Activate**

Invite someone to go to church with you that others may have given up on.

**Pray**

Thank You, God, for not dismissing me or overlooking me when others may have. Help me to live out these words of Paul. Help me to accept others as Your Son, Jesus, did. Give me eyes to see people the way You do. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: How Is Your Allowance?**

**Engage**

Read [Ephesians 4:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph4.1-6).

**Consider**

In our relationship with others, a recipe for disaster is impatience, pride, and harshness. The Bible gives us the recipe for success. As believers, we are to model certain characteristics. These include humbleness, gentleness, patience, and not rejecting people who have made mistakes.

You are known by how well you love others. As you get to know God and His character, you will become more like Him. In return, you are called to display what you learn from God to others. This is especially true for those who are new believers. Sometimes, we tend not to have enough allowance for new Christians, and we end up ignoring or rejecting them. But God expects us to show them His love.

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| **QUESTION**What are some ways Paul challenged us to live according to these verses? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to make allowances for each other’s faults? |

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| **QUESTION**What might it look like to be bound with other Christians in peace? |

**Reflect**

Today’s Bible passage explains that making allowances for others who may make mistakes or hurt us is part of being a Christian. Modeling this for those with a past can encourage them to be more committed to the family of God.

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| **QUESTION**Do you do a good job when it comes to making allowances for others and their faults? Explain. |

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| **QUESTION**How are you doing at making an effort to help others in their walk with God? |

**Activate**

Draw a picture of what this verse means to you. Use different colors to depict the different characteristics. Allow God to use your artistic expression as a way to connect with Him.

**Pray**

God, thank You that You give us direction in Your Word on how to treat others. Show me the areas in my life where I may still need to produce more humility, gentleness, and patience with others. Help me to use my growth to help others grow. Thank You for Your grace. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 4: Aim High**

**Engage**

Read [Philippians 3:12–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php3.12-16).

**Consider**

Paul, years after his conversion, wrote about how he pushed his past behind him and pressed on toward the goal Jesus had for him. That goal was godly perfection. While aiming to be perfect may seem intense, it meant that Paul always had room to improve. There were always things he could do to get closer to Jesus. While Paul aimed high with his goals, he was honest about the reality—he wasn’t perfect. That honesty could allow him to encourage others to aim high with him, without being discouraged when they fell short because even Paul fell short of his goal. Like Paul, we all can leave our past behind and aim for the perfect goals Jesus has for us.

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| **QUESTION**What goal was Paul striving for in his life? |

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| **QUESTION**How does a person forget about the past as Paul referred to? |

**Reflect**

As you meet new people who have just come to know Jesus, their past will come with them. Remember, their past doesn’t have to determine who they will be as they grow closer to Jesus. Our role is to help them remember the goal, stay focused, and encourage them to keep trying when they fall.

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| **QUESTION**How can you get better at helping others stay focused on Jesus and not on their past? |

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| **QUESTION**What would your church look like if all believers were willing to help others press on in their faith? Are you willing to be one of these people? |

**Activate**

Memorize verse [14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php3.14). Write it out and make it a life verse and reminder of how to help others in their walk.

**Pray**

God, help me to make every effort to press on to know You more. Help me to encourage other followers to abandon their past and pursue You. Help me to see others how You see them. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: An Entertaining Thought**

**Engage**

Read [Hebrews 13:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb13.1-7).

**Consider**

Sometimes the simplest verses are the hardest to live. You are called to love your brothers and sisters in Christ. Sounds simple. But this can be hard sometimes, especially when you saw who they were in their past without Jesus.

Our love gets stretched as we learn to love without limits. It makes such an impact when we see someone with a bad past who is now worshipping God and being used by Him. You are called to just keep loving—no matter what.

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| **QUESTION**What have you found difficult about loving others? |

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| **QUESTION**Is it easy for you to remember to love someone the way Jesus loves you? Why or why not? |

**Reflect**

God’s love for you is endless and unconditional. Similarly, God wants you to keep on loving others even when it doesn’t make sense. Provide a friendship where they can grow in their faith. Be part of their story. You just may be the person they need to keep moving forward.

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| **QUESTION**Who is someone in your life whose love made a big impact on you? Who is someone else in your life that needs to receive that kind of love? |

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| **QUESTION**How have these devotions challenged you to step in when someone needs encouragement in their faith? |

**Activate**

Live out verse [7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb13.7). Remember your leaders who taught you the Word of God. Send them a note, give them a gift card, or simply tell them how grateful you are for them.

**Pray**

God, help me to keep loving—even when I don’t see progress in others. Help me to keep showing love to them. Show me how to grow my love for others. I ask that Your followers will help others push beyond their past and pursue Jesus in greater ways. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.