**The Disciple Series Week 8**

Welcome to the Disciple Series.

In week 1 we learnt that a disciple is Word-based.

In week 2 we learnt that a disciple is Prayer-filled.

In week 3 we learnt that a disciple isChrist-centered.

In week 4 we learnt that a disciple isSpirit-empowered.

In week 5 we learnt that a disciple is Socially-responsible.

In week 6 we learnt that a disciple is Mission-minded.

Last week we learnt that a disciple is Leadership-empowered.

This week we will learn that a disciple isChurch-connected.

**Question:** What groups are you a part of in society? What do you get out of being a part of them?

**Definition:** A discipled-person is active in the body of Christ.

**Bible Passage:** *“*In Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another.” (Romans 12:5)

**Small Group Question:** What does this verse teach us about church?

**Biblical Character:** Barnabas (Acts 9-15)

**Video:** Paul and Barnabas on Missionary Journey. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Dc\_46tjBsM

**(1) Barnabas gave to the church.** His first recorded action is that he “sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:37). Paul also said that Barnabas supported himself financially and did not depend on churches. (1 Corinthians 9:6).

**(2) Barnabas served in the church.** He was sent by the Jerusalem church to Antioch. “When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.” (Acts 11:23-24)

**(3) Barnabas helped in the church.** Barnabas went with Paul to straighten out tensions that arose in the early church by sharing from the Scriptures and his experience how the Gentiles were being saved and could fellowship with Jews. (Acts 15:1-21)

**(4) Barnabas handled conflict in the church.** Barnabas disagreed with Paul about whether Mark should be part of their mission trip - and later Paul said that Mark was “useful to me.” (Acts 15:36-41; 2 Timothy 4:11)

**Question:** Are you Church-connected like Barnabas?

Maybe you are not there yet…

By the time you graduate from Encounter Youth you will know that followers of Jesus belong to a local church because it is the hope of the world.

You will find your place and your role in a local church.

You will experience a sense of family with other believers.

**Challenge:** What can you do to become Church-connected?

**Step 1: Attend Regularly.** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

**Step 2: Participate Actively.** Don’t be a spectator - church is not a spectator sport. **“**When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

**Step 3: Serve Faithfully. “**God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

**Step 4: Forgive Quickly. “**Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.“ (Colossians 3:13)

**Activity: Group Selfie and Signature.** Take a group selfie and write your name on the page to remember you were a part of Encounter Youth in 2018.

What will your response be to the message you have heard today? Will you work on becoming Church-connected?

**Prayer:** Let’s ask God to help us become Church-connected.

Next week we will review all that we have learnt in this series and we have a special treat apart from, a feast planned: Z\_Lus, a rap artist from church will be performing for us.