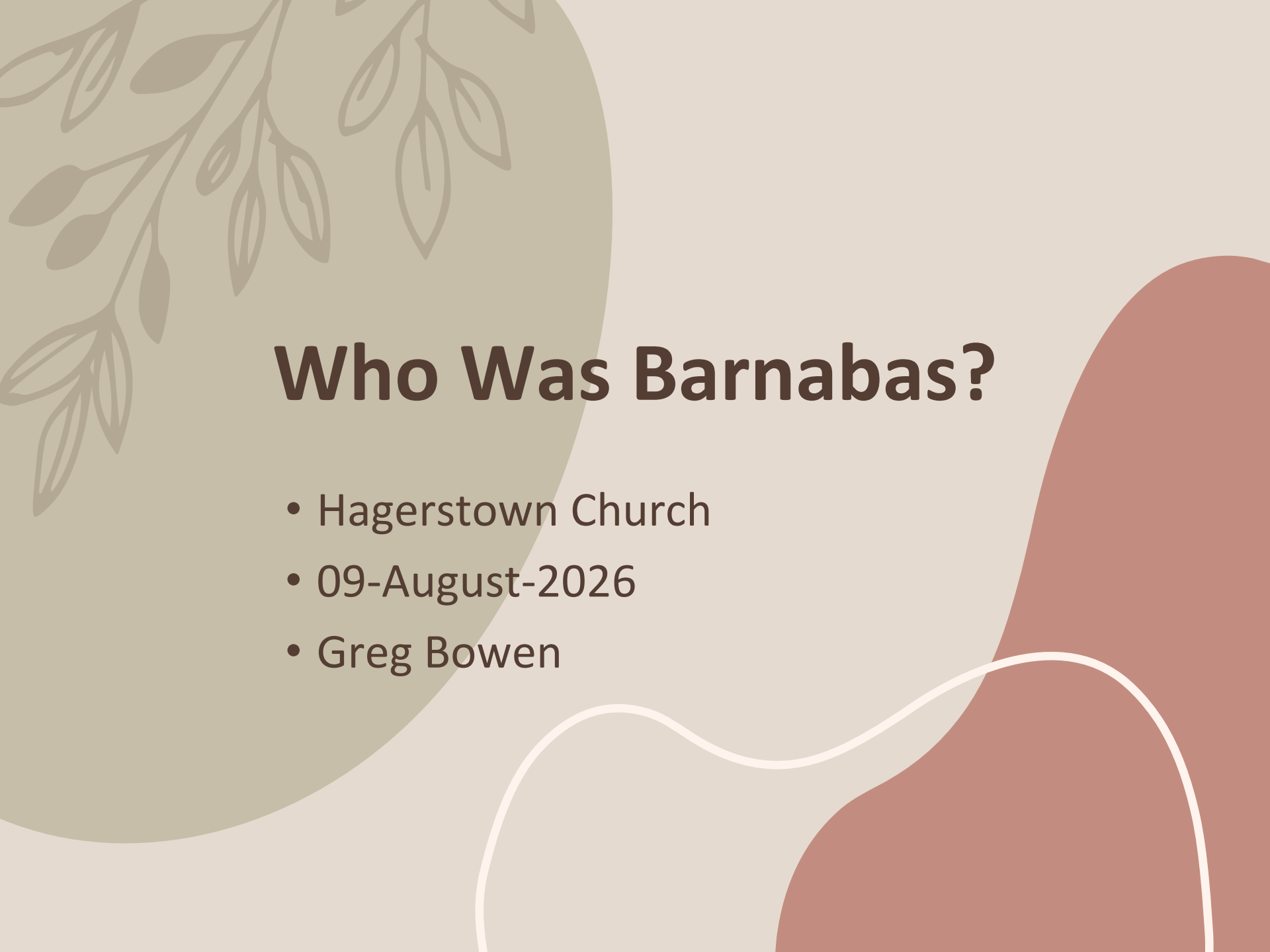


The background features a light beige color with abstract shapes. On the left, there is a large, muted olive-green semi-circle. In the top-left corner, a branch with several leaves is depicted in a dark olive-green outline. On the right side, there is a large, muted red semi-circle. A thin, white, wavy line curves across the bottom of the image.

Acts 4:34-37



Paul and Barnabas at Lystra (Sacrifice at Lystra)
by Bartholomeus Breenbergh [Wiki Public Domain]



Who Was Barnabas?

- Hagerstown Church
- 09-August-2026
- Greg Bowen

Some attributes and facts...

- His real name was **Joseph** or **Joses** (Acts 4:36)
- A native of **Cyprus** (Acts 4:36)
- A **Levite**, the priestly tribe (Acts 4:36)
- A good man (Acts 11:24)
- Full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:24)
- Full of faith (Acts 11:24)
- Referred to as an “**apostle**” (Acts 14:14; 1 Cor 9:6), possibly one of the seventy-two sent out by Jesus (Lk 10:1)
- Assembled with the disciples in **Jerusalem** (before the persecution); later sent to **Antioch** (Acts 11:22)
- Became one of the **prophets** and **teachers** in Antioch (Acts 13:1)
- Spoke out **boldly** (Acts 13:46)

Not to be confused with...

- **Bartholomew**, one of the twelve — Mark 3:18
- **Simon Bar-Jonah** (aka: Peter) — Mt 16:17
- **Barachiah**, father of Zechariah — Mt 23:5
- **Barabbas** the robber, murderer & insurrectionist — Mt 27:16
- **Bartimaeus**, the blind beggar — Mark 10:46
- **Joseph** called **Barsabbas**, who was also called **Justus**, one of the candidates qualified to replace Judas (**Matthias** was selected by casting lots) — Acts 1:23
- **Bar-Jesus**, the Jewish false prophet — Acts 13:43

What was he known by?

What did the Apostles call him?

- **Acts 4:36** — “Joseph, who was also called **Barnabas** by the apostles ...”
 - Aramaic: ***bar nehma*** or ***bar nebhah***
- “...which means **son of encouragement**”
 - Greek: **παράκλητος** - ***paraklētos***



Detail from San Barnabas
Altarpiece, by Sandro Botticelli,
[Wikidata] Public Domain

What was his reputation?

- ***paraklētos*** Greek definitions:
 - Incitement, persuasion
 - Entreaty, earnest supplication
 - Solace, consolation
 - Cheering and supporting influence
 - Joy, gladness, rejoicing
- Translations: Son of...
 - **Encouragement** (RSV, NIV, ESV, NASB, WEB)
 - **Exhortation** (ASV, NEB)
 - **Consolation** (KJV)
 - **Comfort** (Basic English)
- One who encourages (NCV)
- One who encourages others (ERV)

What's in a Name? – 1/3

- **Gave abundantly to the church**
 - **Acts 4:36** — sold a field that belonged to him (maybe in Cyprus?); brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet
 - **1 Cor 9:6** — like Paul, supported the ministry by his vocation
- **Introduced Saul to the disciples in Jerusalem**
 - **Acts 9:26-28; Gal 1:18** — the disciples were afraid of Saul
 - Barnabas brought him to the apostles and **declared to them** how on the road he had seen the Lord who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.
 - **Acts 9:31** — so the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was **being lifted up**.
- **Was sent to Antioch to encourage the Hellenists**
 - **Acts 11:19-22** — the report came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem (that a great number of Hellenists believed and turned to the Lord), and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

What's in a Name? – 2/3

- **Exhorted the Antioch church**

- **Acts 11:23** — When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he **exhorted** (*paraklēō*) them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.

- **Asked Saul to join him in Antioch**

- **Acts 11:25-26** — went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.
- For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people.

- **Carried the relief donations to Judea**

- **Acts 11:27-30; Gal 2:9-10** — So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send **relief** (*diakonia*) to the brothers living in Judea.
- And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of **Barnabas** and **Saul**.

What's in a Name? – 3/3

- **Set apart (with Paul) for first missionary journey**
 - **Acts 13:1-3** — While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me **Barnabas** and **Saul** for the work to which I have called them.”
 - **Acts 13:43** — **urged** [the converts] to continue in the grace of God
- **Appeared before the Council of Jerusalem**
 - **Acts 15:1-35** — And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with [the circumcision sect], **Paul** and **Barnabas** and some of the others were **appointed to go up to Jerusalem** to the apostles and the elders about this question.
 - **Brought great joy** to all the brothers
 - And when they read [the letter] they **rejoiced** because of its **encouragement**
- **Mentored John-Mark**
 - **Acts 15:36-39** — Defended John-Mark and took him to Cyprus
 - **Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; Philem 24; 1 Pe 5:13** — Mark later traveled with Paul

Why Is Encouragement Important?

- Because, just as with John-Mark, it is how we **grow disciples**.
- Because it is how we **grow the church** and make it **stronger**.
- Because we have been **commanded!**
 - **1 Thes 5:11** — **encourage** one another and build one another up.
 - **Heb 10:24-25** — And let us consider how to **stir up** one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 - **1 Cor 14:12** — So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to **excel** in **building up** the church.

How Do We **Encourage**?

- **Lessons from VBS...**
 - By **growing** the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (**Gal 5:22-23**)
 - By **avoiding** sin and the works of the flesh. (**Gal 5:19-21**)
- **Eph 4:29** — Let no **corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may **give grace** to those who hear.
- **Titus 2:1-2** — But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be **sober-minded** (temperate), **dignified** (honorable), **self-controlled** (modest, discrete), sound in **faith**, in **love**, and in **steadfastness** (patient endurance).

Avoid Discouragement!

- **2 Cor 12:20** — **NO** ...quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.
- **1 Tim 6:4** — **NO** ...unhealthy craving for **controversy** and for **quarrels** about words, which produce **envy**, **dissension**, **slander**, **evil suspicions**, and constant **friction** among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.
- **2 Tim 2:24** — And the Lord's servant must **NOT** be **quarrelsome** but **kind** to everyone, **able to teach**, **patiently enduring evil**.
- **Titus 3:1-2** — Remind them to be **submissive** to rulers and authorities, to be **obedient**, to be **ready** for every good work, to **speak evil** of no one, (blaspheme, defame, slander) to **avoid quarreling** (fighting, contentious), to be **gentle**, and to show perfect **courtesy** (meekness, mildness, kindness, forbearance) toward all people.
- **Titus 2:9** — Bondservants are to be **submissive** to their own masters in everything; they are to be **well-pleasing**, **NOT** argumentative.

Do you excel in **building up** the church?

- Be A Barnabas!

- Challenge/Invitation:

1. Pick someone to encourage.
2. If you don't know them well, determine a way you can learn what would encourage them, or what could bring them joy.
3. Determine what you can say, or do, to build up or comfort them.

- Try it:

- Each Lord's Day, for **two months**!
- Or try it for a year!
- Or try it daily!





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