

**ENCOURAGERS:**  
**COURAGEOUS RISK-TAKERS**  
A study from Acts 9:26-30

Encouragers are those who come alongside others to strengthen, support, challenge and under-gird them, even if they are a social risk to be identified with. Barnabas is a great example of this. We can learn much from his ministry to the newly saved, former Christian persecutor Saul, whom we come to know as Paul.

Acts 9:26 "When [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. 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. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord."  
NIV

Lessons From An Encourager - Essential Traits:

1. Courageous (see 9:13 & 26 - compare to 12:12-15)  
Has fear limited your ministry impact and influence?

2. Purposefully Stands With Outcasts (vs. 27)  
Give examples of outcasts / outsiders we can stand with.  
Who believed in or has been a cheerleader for you?

3. Publicly Stands Up For Outsiders (vs. 27)  
Was there ever a time some one took a risk on you?  
Who is going it alone that needs you to come alongside?  
Do you need to make any introductions or invitations?

4. Proudly Speaks Up For Outsiders (vs. 27)  
Who can you be a voice for?  
How can you be a Barnabas to others?

The Fruit of Encouragement

1. Relationships are Built (vs. 27 - see Gal. 1:18-2:1)

2. Ministry is Multiplied (vs. 28 & the rest of Acts & .!)