

Proverbs 18:24 NLT

Key Scripture

There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Real Friends Are Encouragers

- ✓ **Everyone** needs encouragement.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 NIV

Therefore encourage each other with these words.

- ✓ **Real friends are encouragers.**

Acts 4:36 NIV

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus,

whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)

- ✓ **Encouragers arise in an emergency.**

Acts 4:37 NLT

He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

We have a choice...Discourage or Encourage.

- ✓ **Don't believe them without listening to them.**

Acts 9:26 NLT

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!

- ✓ **Think people are fake without getting to know them.**

Acts 9:26 TLB

Upon arrival in Jerusalem he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They thought he was faking!

- ✓ **Can't trust them because we are afraid of them.**

Acts 9:26 Message

Back in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him.

They didn't trust him one bit.

- ✓ **It takes courage** to be an encourager.

Notes: _____

You've Got A Friend In Me

Encourager

Be An Encourager

1. **Believe** in someone...so others will.

Acts 9:27-29 NLT

27 Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. 28 So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him.

2. **Celebrate** the victories of others and **challenge** them to go to the next level.

Acts 11:21-23 NIV

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

3. **Look for people to share the spotlight** with.

Acts 11:25-26 NLT

25 Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. 26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

4. **Speak words of life** and believe in the power of God.

Acts 11:24 TLB

Barnabas was a kindly person, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith.

As a result, large numbers of people were added to the Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 CEV

9 So you will be saved, if you honestly say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe with all your heart that God raised Him from death.
 10 God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.

Notes: _____

