

The background of the cover features a light beige color with a network of thin, dotted grey lines. These lines intersect at various points, creating a grid-like pattern. At each intersection point, there is a small black dot. The lines and dots form a series of interconnected triangles and squares, creating a subtle geometric pattern across the entire cover.

The Barnabas Way of
Shaping Lives for Jesus

AUTHENTIC INFLUENCER

JONATHAN MURPHY

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

Authentic Influencer

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Introduction

Some Food for Thought

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BEFORE ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS either in personal study or as part of a group, revisit the teaching in this chapter and think it through.

1. Humans are malleable. We are made of clay. Spend some time reflecting on how you became the person you are today. Make a list of the influences, both positive and negative (and both subtle or direct), that form human hearts (including yours).
2. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are a follower for Jesus Christ. The Great Commission is that you would “go and make disciples.” Read Matthew 28:19–20. Note the implications of this for your life. What are some natural everyday relationships where you could start?
3. Form an authentic servant leader and the church gets godly servant leadership. What is essential to the formation of an authentic leader for ministry?

Influencers

Flavoring Society for Jesus

Some Food for Thought

BEFORE ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, reflect on (or perhaps revisit again) the ideas developed in the main sections of this chapter.

1. List those areas in your day-to-day life where you come into natural contact with others. Remember, these are sacred ministry spaces—opportunities for influence. Begin to view them as such!
2. Revisit Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13–14 on salt and light. Think about the characteristics of these items as they speak into your call to influence those around you. What is involved in being Christ's salt and light in your day-to-day life? How could this be accomplished?
3. Revisit the myths, trends, and pitfalls presented in this chapter. Do any of these dangers show up in your life? If you are a ministry leader, reflect and discuss with others the dangers these present for the twenty-first-century church. Are there others?

Dreamers and Doers

Hands-On Vision

Some Food for Thought

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REMEMBER, BEFORE ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS that follow, it is helpful to think and talk your way through the main truths from the sections in this chapter.

1. Think through God's vision for His world and what He is doing about it. Can you articulate it in your own words?
2. Barnabas incarnated God's vision for the church in his day in practical ways. How can you express God's dreams and doings to those around you?
3. Authentic believers, and certainly servant leaders like pastors, lead those around them by modeling the pursuit of God's version of the good life. This requires emotional intelligence: understanding the heart of God *and* the needs of people. How do you nurture this in your own life regularly?

Hinges and Bridges

Detecting Potential Even in Risky People

Some Food for Thought

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IN ORDER TO BENEFIT MOST FROM THE TRUTHS IN this chapter, think through each major section and then answer the following questions:

1. Think of those people in your past who invested in you. What did they do? Do they know the role they played?
2. People are risky. We all are. But to influence people we must be quick to forgive their failures. Meditate on Jesus' words on forgiveness in Luke 11:4. Reflect on all that He forgave you.
3. Barnabas discerned God's hand at work in those around him. He also displayed interpersonal intelligence. If you are a ministry leader in any capacity, what relationships around you need to be connected or reconciled? How could you mediate this?

Pickers and Piggybackers

Launching Others Without Competing

Some Food for Thought

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ONCE AGAIN, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK YOUR WAY through the major sections in this chapter before attempting to answer the following questions:

1. The Great Commission is a personal and communal call. Partnership is efficient and fulfilling. Together we really are better! Take a look at 1 Corinthians 12:12–26 and Ephesians 2:21–22. How can you collaborate with other Christians in making disciples?
2. Picking without prying. Piggybacking without competing. What do these phrases mean to you?
3. The foundational qualification for ministry leadership is a godly heart. But leadership also requires organizational intelligence. Revisit Acts 11:19–30 with an eye on those issues Barnabas engaged in to establish and lead this church.

Plodders and Mentors

The Value of Meaningful Presence

Some Food for Thought

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ONCE AGAIN, REMEMBER TO INVEST SOME TIME reviewing and reflecting on the main ideas in this chapter before attempting to answer the following questions:

1. Making disciples is not easy. Historically, hardship opposes attempts to represent Christ (remember Carey, Wishart, Knox). How would you rate your commitment to making followers of Jesus? Do you persevere when difficulty flares up?
2. Barnabas stepped up to lead, stepped aside to mentor, and stepped back to follow. What does this model to you as you serve God?
3. Serving God requires cross-cultural and relational intelligence. We must be able to work beyond what is familiar and comfortable to us and with different types of people. How would you develop this type of lifestyle and skill?

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Guardians and Catalysts

Standing for Truth and Directing Change

Some Food for Thought

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AFTER THINKING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAIN teachings in this chapter, answer the following questions:

1. Have you ever studied the culture in which you live? The tentacles of a postmodern and post-truth assault are everywhere. It's time to put your finger on the pulse of cultural trajectories to stand firm on God's truth. How can you study culture?
2. Truth assaults occur inside the church, not just outside our doors. Acts 15 emerges from an in-house attack on the gospel. What does it take to detect such subtle encroachments? What would developing truth intelligence involve?
3. Ministry leaders encounter change regularly. It is important to learn to manage change well. What do you think is essential to manage change well?

Troubleshooters and Recyclers

Defusing Tension and Redeeming Failure

Some Food for Thought

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REMEMBER TO SET SOME TIME ASIDE FOR REFLECTION on the main teachings in this chapter before answering the following questions:

1. Pouring your life into other people opens you up to hurt. Take some time to face those wounds. List them. Name them. What did you learn from them?
2. Read and reflect on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 11:28–30. He invites you to take your past hurts to Him. Why don't you take them to Him now?
3. Godly servant leaders will deal with many crises. Crisis intelligence is essential. Revisit what you learned in this chapter on how Barnabas handled tension in a God-honoring way.

Farsighted and Followers

A Lasting Legacy, God's Way

Some Food for Thought

REMEMBER, YOU WILL BENEFIT MOST FROM ANSWERING the following questions after reflecting on the key sections in this chapter.

1. What legacy have you always wanted to leave behind? Be honest. Think about how the culture defines a worthwhile legacy.
2. Read Jesus' teaching on the Greatest Commandment and His act of washing the disciples' feet (Matthew 22:37–40; Mark 12:29–31; John 13:1–17). Reflect on how these define and model a godly legacy.
3. Take a few moments to reflect on the impact of the apostle Paul and Mark on the Christian church. Barnabas stood behind them both. Then think about what God could do in those people around you if you launched them. How would you develop an eternal intelligence?

Conclusion

Some Food for Thought

HERE ARE SOME FINAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER. Remember to answer them after reflecting on the main ideas of this chapter.

1. Jesus entrusted the Great Commission to Christians in Matthew 28:19–20. What stands in your way of getting directly involved in its fulfillment?
2. Look back over our list of fifteen principles of godly influence. As you reflect on them, think about a person in your day-to-day life you could come alongside. What is a doable plan of action for you to begin implementing these principles to influence this person?
3. In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus taught His followers concerning spiritual service. It is here where we read those words we all desire to one day hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Read this parable with an eye on Jesus’ teaching on faithful and unfaithful stewardship. What people has He entrusted to you?