



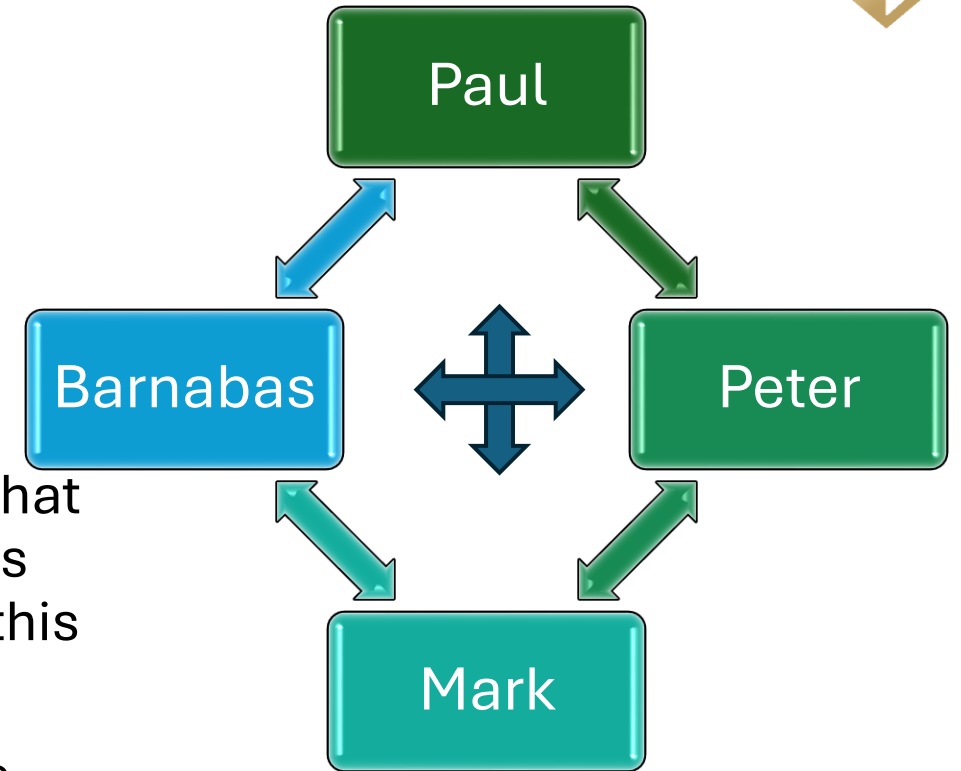
KINGDOM  
WORKER

# Paul, Peter, Barnabas & Mark



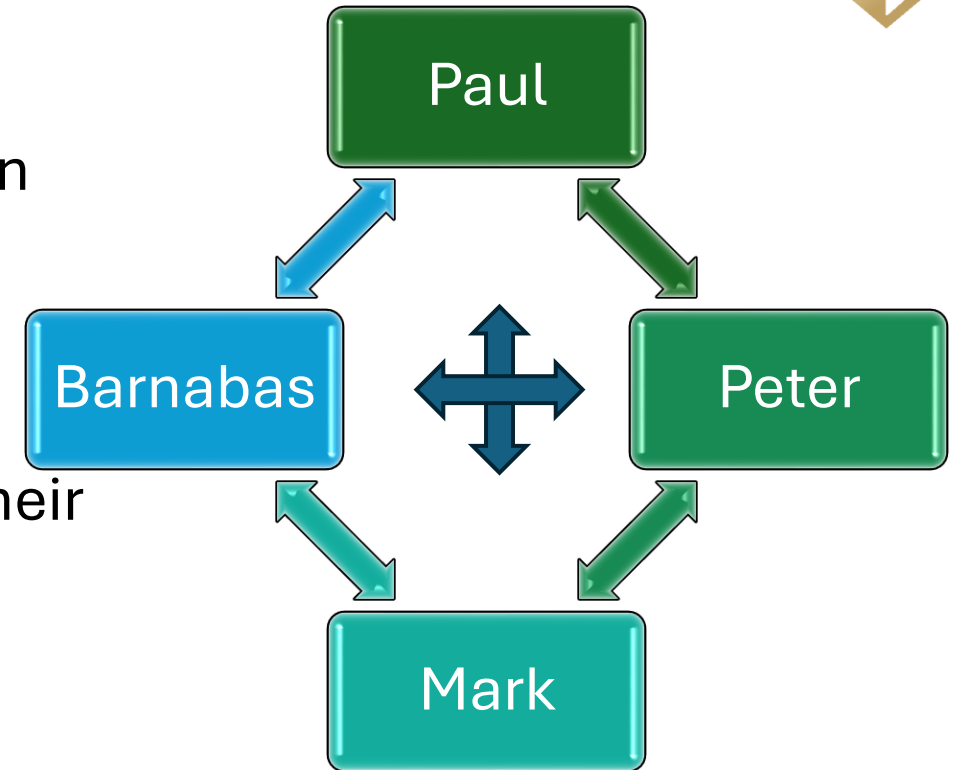
# Notes to the Bible study leaders

- Read through the Bible References in the material before the study.
- Do a fun quiz before starting
- Highlight that these character traits are present in many people, and many traits can be in one person
- Highlight forgiveness, managing conflict well, and that each of us are different with different strengths. This means we need to be patient with each other, and this becomes effective as our witness for Christ.
- Encourage reading of the Scriptures, prayer and the Holy Spirit who helps us navigate different personalities, and to persevere in using our giftings.



# Study Objectives

- Understand better the personalities and development of Paul, Peter, Barnabas, and John Mark through the work of Christ.
- Explore how their interactions shaped their ministries and relationships.
- Discover personal and ministry lessons from their growth, conflict, and reconciliation.





# Paul (Saul) – Zealous, driven, missionary to the gentiles

- Read Acts 6 : 8 - 15 7: 1-60
- Summary: Educated under Gamaliel, Paul was once a fierce persecutor of Christians.
- Saul was there approving the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7)
- After encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became a tireless apostle to the Gentiles. Bold, intellectual, and focused on truth, Paul showed deep transformation throughout his ministry.
- Read/refer to *Acts 9 and Galatians 2*
- Met Peter soon after his conversion, and later had meetings with him and Barnabas as Apostles and church leaders.

# Peter – Apostle to the Jews

## Summary:

- A fisherman called by Jesus, Peter was bold yet impulsive. He experienced great failure by denying Christ, but after restoration, he became a bold confident preacher.
- Acts 12:5-11. Peter is imprisoned by Herod Agrippa just after James the brother of John was beheaded. When miraculously released, he went to John Mark's home and spoke to the other believers.
- His leadership developed over time into a more stable, mature role in the early Church.
- How do you think it affected Peter, when James his friend was martyred?



# Barnabas – The Encouraging Peacemaker



- Summary: Known as the “son of encouragement,” Barnabas’ name is actually Joseph. He is generous, relational, and committed to developing others and also Mark’s uncle (Colossians 4:10).
- Loyal persistent
- Goes with Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem (Gal 2)
- He played a key role in supporting and mentoring Paul and John Mark, prioritizing relationships and restoration in ministry.
- Valued restoration, showed loyalty and mentorship

# John Mark – The Redeemed Servant

- A young companion of Paul and Barnabas, John Mark left them on a journey but later proved himself faithful. He authored the Gospel of Mark, likely with Peter's guidance, and very likely the first gospel written.
- Peter went to John Mark's mother's home after his release from prison (Acts 12:12).
- Had contact with strong evangelists, travelled as Paul's assistant. Later through the epistles, Paul requests Mark to come through to him, stating that he is very helpful to him.
- Even though he left Paul's first missionary journey, he did others with Barnabas and was effective in his ministry.
- Mark did not give up after having conflict, but carried on helping, and even helping Paul who had had conflict over him.



## 2. Interactions & Key Passages

- *Galatians 2:11–14* - Paul & Peter: Paul rebuked Peter for hypocrisy
- *Acts 13:1–3; Acts 15:36–40* - Paul & Barnabas: Mission partners; later disagreed about Mark. One of the most important passages showing how two followers of Christ who disagree, can be restored, forgive and still be effective leaders for Christ.
- *Acts 13:13; 2 Tim. 4:11* - Paul & John Mark: Distrusted him because Mark left the missionary journey to go home, but later reconciled
- *Galatians 2:11–14; 2 Peter 3:15–16* - Peter & Paul: When Saul had his conversion, he met with the disciples after Ananias had visited him and his sight was restored. Confronted by Paul 14 years later regarding his moving back into legalism, he was later affirmed by and affirmed Paul.
- *Galatians 2:13* Peter & Barnabas: Both strong missionaries for Christ, both influenced by Jewish pressure regarding circumcision and racism
- *1 Peter 5:13; Acts 12:12* - Peter & John Mark: Peter went to John Marks house after his miraculous release from prison. Mark was very possibly Peter's scribe, and might have helped Peter write the letters of 1, 2 Peter. They had a close bond; called Mark "my son"
- *Acts 15:39* - Barnabas & John Mark: Uncle and nephew, protected Mark, Gave Mark a second chance





## 3. Lessons Evidenced in Behavior

How did these 4 men grow?

- Paul: Boldness in truth, but softened with grace and forgiveness. He went on to write his letters in Jail, which were circulated far more widely than if he had been travelling and speaking.
- Peter: His extrovertness and talking became a gift to be used for good, while he learned humility, accepted correction, valued others' calling
- Barnabas: Valued restoration, showed loyalty and mentorship
- John Mark Early failure didn't define him; he grew into a faithful servant

## ? 4. Discussion Questions

- Which characteristics do you identify with in Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and Mark?
- How did God use each person's strengths and weaknesses?
- Why do you think Paul was so upset with John Mark? Was he justified?
- What does Barnabas's defense of Mark teach us about second chances?
- Read *2 Peter 3:15-17* How does Peter's willingness to affirm Paul in his letter show maturity? How do these men show us that conflict in ministry is sometimes unavoidable? How should church leaders manage this conflict?
- Read *Acts 15:36-40, Colossians 4:10, 2 Tim 4:11*. What does this tell us about conflict, forgiveness and restoration among believers?
- What does John Mark's restoration teach us about long-term usefulness in ministry?
- Is there a relationship in your life that reflects the need for confrontation, support, or reconciliation?

## 5. Application Points

- Confront in love: Like Paul with Peter—address important issues with grace and courage.
- Encourage growth: Like Barnabas—support others, especially when they've failed.
- Don't give up: Like John Mark—failure is not final when we walk in humility and faithfulness.
- Keep growing: Like Peter—God can transform impulsive hearts into mature leaders.



## Extra Insight



- Mark's Gospel is believed to be the first written Gospel and heavily based on Peter's firsthand accounts.
- After Peter's miraculous escape from prison, he went to Mark's mother's house (Acts 12:12)—indicating that Mark was likely familiar with the early church's inner circle from a young age.



## Closing Prayer

- "Lord, thank You for the examples of Paul, Peter, Barnabas, and John Mark. Help us to learn from their successes and mistakes. Teach us to stand for truth, offer grace, accept correction, and never give up on those who stumble. Use us, like them, to serve Your kingdom with humility and love. Amen."