

### **PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY**

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

### **NOTES & QUOTES**



# **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

## **ABOUT THE CHURCH**

Acts 15:36-16:5

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## CONNECT (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. What was the thing that you missed most about Sunday mornings when we were not able to gather together in-person during the pandemic?
2. Did you learn anything new about what it means to be “the church” over the past two years?
3. Are there things you feel God may have been teaching us as his church during the pandemic? If so what might they be?

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## THRIVE (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

*Paul and Barnabas were leaders in the early church who were passionate about the spread of the gospel and yet experienced difficult circumstances which led to conflict. Read Acts 15:36 – 16:5 and consider the following questions.*

4. What was the conflict that arose between Paul and Barnabas (15:37-39a)?
  - a. Put yourself in the place of Paul and then Barnabas. What reasons would you give for including or excluding John Mark from the journey?
  - b. Do you think there was a clear right or wrong position in this conflict? Why or why not?

5. What was the main purpose of the journeys that both Barnabas and Paul took? Review 15:36 and 41. In what ways does the splitting of Paul and Barnabas actually further the work of the kingdom as you think about this story?
6. In our modern-day context, are there internal conflicts in a church that might parallel this story? If so, what might some of them be, and what lessons could we learn from the text?
7. “Paul and Barnabas continued to depend on God. They moved forward peacefully, even though it meant parting ways. In matters of personal opinion and practical procedure, Paul and Barnabas differed. In matters of doctrine, they both saw the necessity of sharing the gospel with the world.” Consider this statement and discuss its applications for us a follower of Christ.

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## COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

8. Describe a time in your own life where God used a situation that you did not think was good, and yet God brought a great result.
9. What might you, your family or your small group do that would strengthen and encourage the church? Be detailed.
10. Take a moment to pray that our church would be unified, strengthened and used mightily for the sake of the gospel.