

One of the characters in the New Testament is the man the apostles nicknamed “Barnabas”—the son of encouragement. It is a fitting name, as we see him actively encouraging a young follower of Christ and a young church. His encouragement gives us an example to follow in encouraging one another in our own relationships, which as a school is something we strive to do daily.

Our values as actions in the story and life of Barnabas

How the story of Barnabas links with our Christian values and school vision

Barnabas was a wealthy young Jew when he first came across Christians living near him. He admired the communities they lived in, which were full of examples of love and kindness. It was his ambition to become a part of their community. He asked the Christians how they managed to live so harmoniously and they explained that they wanted to live as Jesus had done so they could be their very best as God intended for them.

Barnabas wanted to earn their friendship, trust and respect so that he could become a part of their community. He went home and explained what he wanted to his family; he sold all his belongings so that he had something to offer his new friends and fulfil his ambition to become one of them. He offered them his money and they decided who would benefit most from his kindness and generosity and he happily gave it away.

Barnabas and Paul became great friends after Barnabas introduced Paul to the rest of Jesus’ disciples. Barnabas always encouraged Paul to carry on with his work, spreading the work of God far and wide and went with him on his journeys. At times, it wasn’t always easy to

be a Christian but Barnabas always persevered and always nurtured and encouraged others to follow their belief in God.

Then when he arrived (at Antioch) and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. Acts 11:23