

MOMENTUM

Little Moves | Lasting Legacy



DAY 1

The Power of Advocacy

DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever felt like an outsider, desperately wanting to be accepted but facing suspicion and doubt? Saul (later known as Paul) experienced this after his dramatic conversion. Despite his genuine transformation, the disciples in Jerusalem were understandably wary of the man who had once persecuted them.

Enter Barnabas, whose name literally means "Son of Encouragement." When no one else would take a chance on Saul, Barnabas stepped forward and advocated for him. He vouched for Saul's authentic encounter with Jesus and his bold preaching in Damascus. This simple act of advocacy changed everything.

Advocacy means speaking up for someone when they cannot speak for themselves. It means using your influence and credibility to open doors that might otherwise remain closed. Barnabas risked his own reputation to give Saul a chance, and that risk ultimately helped launch one of the most influential ministries in Christian history.

In our own lives, we have daily opportunities to advocate for others—to speak well of them, to highlight their gifts, to create space for their voices to be heard. These small acts might seem insignificant in the moment, but they can create powerful momentum in someone's life and in our communities.



Week 2 | Relational Momentum

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DAY 1

The Power of Advocacy

BIBLE VERSE:

"When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus." - Acts 9:26-27

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Who in your life might need your advocacy right now—someone whose gifts or potential others don't yet see, or someone who needs a door opened that only you can help with?

QUOTE:

Advocacy can cost you something, but it can also open up doors for other people.

PRAYER:

Lord, open my eyes to see those around me who need an advocate. Give me courage to speak up for others, even when it might cost me something. Help me to be like Barnabas, using whatever influence I have to create opportunities for others. Amen.



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DAY 2 The Ministry of Invitation

DEVOTIONAL:

There's something powerful about being invited. Whether it's to a dinner, a project, or a relationship, invitations communicate value. They say, "I see you, I want you here, you matter to me."

When revival broke out in Antioch, Barnabas could have basked in the success alone. Instead, he intentionally traveled to Tarsus to find Saul and invite him into the work. This wasn't just a casual "drop by if you're free" invitation. Barnabas actively sought Saul out, believing he had something unique to contribute to what God was doing.

This invitation changed Saul's trajectory. In Antioch, believers were first called "Christians," and this community became the launching pad for missionary journeys that would spread the gospel throughout the ancient world. All because one person extended a meaningful invitation.

Invitations create belonging. They forge connections. They communicate worth. And they often require intentionality on our part—reaching out, making the first move, crossing barriers of comfort or convenience.

God Himself is an inviting God. Jesus constantly invited people into relationship, into purpose, into His kingdom work. When we extend invitations to others, we reflect His heart and participate in His ongoing work of building community.



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DAY 2 The Ministry of Invitation

BIBLE VERSE:

"News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts." - Acts 11:22

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Who might God be prompting you to invite into your life, your ministry, or your community? What small invitation could you extend this week that might create momentum in someone's life?

QUOTE:

Everybody wants to be invited and included. Everybody wants to be chosen and loved and seen and valued. No matter what background we come from, no matter what our experience, our childhood was like, everybody wants to know that they matter.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting me into relationship with You. Help me to be intentional about inviting others into meaningful connection. Give me courage to reach out, especially to those who might feel overlooked or excluded. May my invitations reflect Your heart of welcome and belonging. Amen.



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DAY 3 The Art of Releasing

DEVOTIONAL:

One of the most beautiful yet challenging aspects of relationships is knowing when to release others into their calling. After investing in Saul and ministering alongside him in Antioch, Barnabas experienced a pivotal moment when the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The church at Antioch could have clung to these gifted leaders. Instead, they released them—sending them out with prayer and blessing to fulfill their missionary calling. This release wasn't abandonment but a launching, propelling Barnabas and Saul into the next chapter of their ministry.

Release requires trust—trust in God's timing, in the person's preparation, and in the Holy Spirit's guidance. It means holding relationships with open hands rather than clenched fists. It means celebrating when others outgrow our mentorship or move beyond our sphere of influence.

True discipleship always includes release. Jesus invested deeply in His disciples, but He also released them to continue His work after His ascension. He knew that without release, their potential would remain limited, and the gospel would not spread as intended.

When we create a culture of release in our relationships and communities, we participate in God's expansive work of multiplication rather than mere addition.



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DAY 3 The Art of Releasing

BIBLE VERSE:

"Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" - Acts 13:1-2

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Who in your life might God be preparing you to release into their next season of growth or ministry? How can you support and bless their transition rather than holding them back?

QUOTE:

What would it look like if we created a culture of release? What if we had a movement where people were really called in and because of small relational moves, they were seen, they were heard, they were valued.

PRAYER:

Lord, give me the wisdom to know when to hold on and when to let go. Help me to release others into their calling with joy and blessing, trusting that You are guiding their steps. May I never become a barrier to someone else's growth or purpose. Thank You for entrusting people to my care for seasons, even when those seasons come to an end. Amen.



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DAY 4 Small Steps, Big Momentum

DEVOTIONAL:

We often dream of making a significant impact, but the path to lasting influence is usually paved with small, consistent actions. The relationship between Barnabas and Saul demonstrates how seemingly minor relational investments—advocacy, invitation, and release—can create momentum that changes history.

Momentum doesn't typically begin with grand gestures. It starts with a text message checking in on someone. It grows with a coffee invitation or a word of encouragement. It builds through consistent presence and intentional investment.

God Himself works this way. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus said, is like a mustard seed—tiny at first but growing into something substantial. The early church began with just 120 people in an upper room, yet that small gathering sparked a movement that would transform the world.

Our small relational moves matter because they align with God's heart. He is fundamentally relational, sending His Son to restore our relationship with Him. When we invest in relationships—even in seemingly insignificant ways—we participate in His redemptive work.

Don't underestimate the power of small beginnings. That brief conversation, that timely encouragement, that simple invitation—these might be the catalysts for momentum that extends far beyond what you can currently imagine.



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DAY 4 Small Steps, Big Momentum

BIBLE VERSE:

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied." - Acts 9:31

REFLECTION QUESTION:

What small relational step could you take today that might create momentum in someone's life or in your community? How might God use that small beginning for something greater than you can see right now?

QUOTE:

The small, intentional moves we make in relationships, encouraging, advocating, inviting, and releasing, can create lasting momentum that shapes our lives and our ministries.

PRAYER:

God, help me to be faithful in small things. Give me eyes to see the significance of seemingly minor interactions and investments. Thank You that You use ordinary people taking ordinary steps to accomplish extraordinary purposes. Help me to be intentional with each relationship You've placed in my life, trusting that You can create momentum from my small offerings. Amen.



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DAY 5

Joining God's Relational Story

DEVOTIONAL:

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture tells one grand story—a story of God pursuing relationship with humanity. He created us for connection. He sent His Son to restore broken relationships. He established the church as a community of believers who would live out His relational values in the world.

When we make small relational investments—advocating, inviting, releasing—we're not just implementing good social strategies. We're participating in God's ongoing story of redemption and restoration. We're reflecting His character and continuing His work.

Barnabas understood this. His advocacy for Saul, his invitation to ministry, and his willingness to release weren't just personal choices—they were participation in God's larger purposes. Without these relational moves, Paul might never have become the apostle who wrote much of the New Testament and spread Christianity throughout the ancient world.

The beautiful truth is that God invites us into His story. He doesn't need us to accomplish His purposes, but He chooses to work through our relationships, our conversations, our small acts of faithfulness. Nothing is insignificant in His kingdom.

As you go about your day, remember that your texts, your invitations, your words of encouragement aren't just social niceties. They're sacred opportunities to join God in His relational work of transformation—both in individual lives and in the broader community.



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DAY 5

Joining God's Relational Story

BIBLE VERSE:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does it change your perspective to see your everyday relational investments as participation in God's larger story? What relationship in your life might God be wanting to use for His redemptive purposes?

QUOTE:

I'm inviting you into the story that Jesus is already writing. We're already a part of it. Come see what God's doing in Antioch and be a part of it.

PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for inviting me into Your story. Help me to see my relationships through Your eyes—as opportunities to participate in Your redemptive work. Give me courage to take small steps of advocacy, invitation, and release, trusting that You can use these to create momentum that extends far beyond what I can see. May my life and relationships reflect Your heart for connection and restoration. Amen.



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