
Does everyone get a second chance?

Second chances are for you to receive.
Matthew 18:21-22, John 21:15-19

Second chances are for you to give.
Acts 12:12, Acts 12:25, Acts 13:13, Acts 15:36-41, James 5:19-20

Second chances for you to serve.
1 Peter 5:13, James 5:19-20

Turn a message into a conversation. Consider joining with a friend to review the message and dig deeper into God's word through the following questions.

God is a God of second chances. This means that it doesn't matter what's happened in our past, we are never too far gone to be loved by God. As followers of God, we must be willing to give people second chances because God wants to use them for His glory. God has never given up on you, so don't give up on the people around you.

Do you consider yourself a determined person?

Think of a time when you succeeded at something after multiple failures?

What is one way your life would be different if there were no second chances?

Today's study is all about second chances. Sometimes we forget or don't even realize the second chances we have been given. This makes it all the more difficult to give second chances to others. But, God's never given up on us, so He doesn't want us to give up on the people around us.

READ ACTS 12:25 AND ACTS 13:13.

Barnabas and Paul were some of the top Christian influences in the world at this time. They took a guy named John Mark with them. This was the opportunity of a lifetime for a "nobody" like John Mark.

Why do you think Barnabas and Paul took John Mark with them? What does it say about their willingness to invest in someone else?

What happened in Acts 13:13? Do you know anyone who's ever walked away from God? What reasons did we talk about last week that people give for quitting?

John Mark quit. Read Acts 13 and see that ministry got difficult for Barnabas and Paul. When it did, John Mark walked away from the will of God, from the people of God, from the plan of God. Some of us have walked away too. The good news is we serve a God of second chances.

How does this story impact you? Have you stepped away for what God was calling you to do?

Are you willing to accept a second chance?

Paul and Barnabas did great ministry together throughout Acts 13–15. Then came this disagreement about giving John Mark a second chance.

What do we know about Paul and the second chance God gave him? Do you find it ironic that he wouldn't be willing to give John Mark a second chance?

Paul was an extremist. He was a complete enemy of God. Yet God gave him a second chance and used him in incredible ways to spread the gospel. God stopped Paul in his tracks, blinded him, and completely changed his life. You would think this is the type of person who would be interested in giving others a second chance. Paul was wrong. It was Barnabas who couldn't get John Mark off his mind and wanted to give him a second chance.

Is there anyone God has put on your mind who you really need to reach out to and give a second chance?

Why do you think that when we mess up we want people to treat us like Barnabas treated John Mark, but when others mess up we tend to treat them like Paul treated John Mark?