

# FAITH BUILDERS

## DISCIPLESHIP SERIES



*Billy and Barney  
Go to Church*

# Faith Builders:

*Billy and Barney*

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By  
David L. Herbert, Sr.

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## **I John 1:6-7 (KJV)**

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”



# 1. Body of Christ

As Billy was walking down the sidewalk, heading home from the playground, he was deep in thought. “Church,” he thought to himself, “is not a place, but rather a person.” Billy knew he was part of Jesus’ spiritual body, which is the Church. He also knew that all believers are a part of Christ’s spiritual body, and that each believer has a different gift. He remembered that his part in the Church was being an encourager. Billy served God by loving his neighbors and serving the body of believers with his gift.

“Hey, Billy!” someone called. Billy turned to see who was hollering for him. It was his friend Barney. “Wait up!” said Barney.



## 2. Minister of Reconciliation

Billy was an encourager, and he knew he was given this gift to help others. He was always encouraging Barney to join the believers in his town.

“I hollered at you about 4000 times,” said Barney, “Why didn’t you stop?” “I was thinking about something.” “What was you thinking about?” Billy paused and replied, “I was thinking about the people who don’t believe in Christ, and how they are God’s enemies and are going to be punished. They are going to die and go to hell.” “Oh, you were thinking about me again,” said Barney. “Weren’t you?” Billy nodded and replied, “Jesus made a way for you to have peace with God and eternal life.”



### 3. Teaching and Training

“I didn’t know I was God’s enemy,” said Barney. “How did you get so smart and learn all this stuff?” “Well,” said Billy, “There is a building down the road from my house where believers in Christ meet together and study the Bible.” He encouraged Barney to come with him to learn how to make peace with God.

Billy knew that Barney needed to know how to be set free from the penalty and power of sin. “God loves you, Barney,” said Billy, “But you have sin in your flesh, which has separated you from Him. You need to get rid of it, because He hates sin.” “I gotta go,” said Barney, “I’ll see you later.”

Barney ran home and went straight to the bathtub. He was determined to scrub off all of the sin from his flesh.



## 4. Love the Brethren

Billy got up the next day and walked down the road to the building where the believers met. The building was called a “church”, but the believers that gathered there understood that they were the Church.

When Billy arrived, he found Barney sitting on the front steps. Billy waved and asked, “What’s that around your neck, Barney?” “My mom said that if I was going to church I had to wear a tie,” said Barney. “She told me that’s what you do when you go to church.”

They went inside, and everyone was glad to see them. The believers were kind and spent time talking with Barney and getting to know him. They really made him feel welcome.



## 5. Worship God

The musicians in the front of the room began to play their instruments, and everyone began to sing and praise God. When Barney began to sing, the people around him were surprised because of his wonderful singing voice. Billy encouraged Barney to use his singing in service to God.

When the music stopped, everyone sat down. Some of the believers stood up to give thanks for the things that God did in their lives during the week. Those who were sitting close to Barney stood up and thanked God for giving him such a wonderful singing voice. Barney felt very special. No one had ever called him special before, except his best friend Billy. Barney liked singing to God.



## 6. The Preacher

After everyone gave thanks to God, a man came forward to speak. “That’s Preacher Jones,” whispered Billy, “He’s going to share God’s Word with us today.”

Preacher Jones began to speak from the Bible about people who tell lies and are dishonest. “You think you can tell lies and get away with it,” he said, “but you can’t. Everything hidden will be revealed. You will have to pay the consequences for your sin. They are not hidden from God.”

Barney began to get upset with Billy, and gave him the old “evil eye” look. Billy asked, “What’s wrong?” Barney replied, “Did you tell him about me?” “No.” “Then how did he know all these things about me?” “God must have told him,” replied Billy.



## 7. Hospitality

When the preacher was finished, everyone went downstairs. There was food and refreshments, and everyone sat down to talk with each other.

Barney looked around and saw cookies, sandwiches, cookies, fruit, cookies, pretzels, cookies, and cheese. Barney knew what he wanted. Cookies!

Barney noticed that everyone had come with their families, except himself and Billy. The believers seemed to treat him and Billy as if they were special. Barney figured it was probably because he was a good singer. He felt like everyone was his friend. Barney didn't have many friends, and after hearing the preacher, he knew why.



## 8. Help the Poor

When they were finished eating, Billy and Barney went outside. Some of the believers had set up tables to provide food and clothing for the poor.

“Do you want to help?” asked Billy. “Sure,” said Barney. They started passing out clothing to the needy. Barney saw a shirt that was really nice, and he put it on the chair behind him so he could take it home. All of the sudden, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a boy named Joey waiting in line. Barney felt a little uneasy. He remembered the preacher’s message about lying. Barney had told Joey a few whoppers that had gotten Joey in trouble. As Joey passed by, he sneered at Barney and didn’t say anything. Barney reached to the chair behind him and picked up the nice shirt. “Hey Joey,” said Barney, as he tossed the shirt to Joey, “I was saving this for you.” Joey really liked the shirt. He smiled and said, “Thanks, Barney!”



## 9. Disciples are Known by Their Love

Billy was proud of Barney for showing love to Joey. Barney felt his heart getting warm, and he was glad he could help Joey.

Preacher Jones saw the act of kindness that Barney had shown his enemy. He came over to Barney and asked, “Would you like to have Jesus set you free of your old sinful ways and come live in your heart?” Barney nodded, “Yes.”

The preacher led him in a prayer, and Barney received Christ into his heart. Everyone gathered around and gave Barney a hug and told him that he now had a new heart to love others. Barney liked this love stuff.



## 10. Endure Persecutions and Hardships

As soon as Billy and Barney left the church building to go home, some kids across the street began to mock them and laugh at them, saying, “Look at the churchy church kids.”

“Wait here,” said Barney, “I’m going to punch them in the nose. I’ll be right back.” Billy grabbed Barney and said, “Wait a minute, Christians don’t do that.” Billy explained that Jesus was also laughed at and mocked. “He wants us to be like Him,” said Billy. “Let’s just ignore them.” “Wow,” said Barney, “It’s hard being a Christian.” Billy replied, “Just remember how good you felt helping others.” Barney nodded, “I remember.”

Barney went home and said, “Mom, I’m home, and I got saved today.” His mom replied, “Ok, make sure you hang that tie back up.”



## 11. A Light in the Community

About 10am the next morning, Billy went over to Barney's house and knocked on the front door. Barney's mom hollered, "Get out of bed Barney! Your friend Billy is here!"

"What's up?" asked Barney, as he came to the door. "Hi, Barney, the believers are meeting at the park for a picnic today," said Billy, "The playground is a mess, and we're going to clean it up. Afterwards, we're going to have lunch. Do you want to come?" "This Christian stuff is hard," said Barney, "Who wants to clean up someone else's mess? But, I'll help you anyway."

As they picked up the trash at the park, Barney couldn't help but notice the really big mess over by the sandbox. He quickly ran over to clean it up. He had made that mess last weekend, and now he was sorry for what he did.



## 12. Use Your Gift

The believers sent members of their band to see if Barney would like to practice singing with them. Barney was excited, and agreed to practice with the band. One of the members gave him a tambourine to play while he sang. Barney had never seen a tambourine before, and didn't know what it was. They showed him how to use it, and then they all began to play their instruments and sing.

Barney was a natural with the tambourine. He could play it better than any of the musicians. He knew God had given him a gift to play it so well. They all played in perfect harmony.

Billy used his gift of encouragement to persuade the band to help Barney use his gift.



## 13. We Die Daily Serving God

Barney noticed his life was changing. He no longer wanted to hang out and get in trouble. Some of his old friends even mocked him and called him “choir boy”.

Barney didn't really care about his old life. He knew he was much happier serving God. He's finding himself acting more and more like Billy every day, and he knows it's good to be like his best buddy.

Barney knows he didn't used to be a very good person, but he trusts that God will work in his heart to make him better. He knows that God is love, and as he serves others, God is working through him.



## 14. Love Always Perseveres

While Barney was playing in the park, some of his old friends came over to talk to him. They tempted him to go and do some bad things with them. They even dared him and called him a chicken until he was persuaded to go with them.

As they were leaving the park, they saw Billy, and dared him to go with them. “I’m God’s servant now,” Billy replied. “And I don’t do those things anymore.” Billy turned and walked away, and as he did, he heard Barney say, “Me neither.”

Barney joined Billy, who told the group, “We are going over to the building where the believers meet to play games. Would any of you like to come with us?” Joey, who was wearing the shirt that Barney gave him, said, “Hey, I’ll go with you.”



## 15. Come Out from Among Them

Barney thanked Billy for rescuing him from his old friends. “There is strength in numbers,” said Billy. “Jesus sent his disciples 2 by 2, because the devil looks for the one standing alone.”

The three of them went and joined in with the other believers and played games all afternoon. Joey really liked the people and asked if he could come to the service on Sunday and learn about Jesus. They all welcomed him and hoped he would become part of their family of believers.

When we walk in the light, we have fellowship with the believers, and we become stronger.

