

LIFE GROUP LESSON May 12 to May 18, 2019

“Being an Encourager”

● **WELCOME God’s People (15 minutes)**

● **WORSHIP God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise).** You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

● **Live by God’s WORD (45 minutes)**

Encouragement is not a luxury; it’s a necessity. Learn the art of encouragement from the best: Jesus. It’s not hard to be an encourager, outlined are some practical ways we can follow Jesus’ example in word and deed. It’s a rough world out there, and as Christians, we simply cannot afford not to encourage one another.

Paul—Another example of an encourager

Christ transformed the apostle Paul from a persecutor of the church into His chosen messenger of the gospel. Wherever he went, he proclaimed Christ and encouraged believers. His life is an example of one who never gave up but kept trusting God and persevering despite opposition and affliction.

- **Persecution.** Although Paul was stoned and left for dead in Lystra, this didn’t stop him. Amazingly, he got up and went to another town the next day to proclaim the gospel there (Acts. 14:19-20).
- **Imprisonment.** Paul was repeatedly jailed for preaching about Jesus, yet he never felt sorry for himself. The Spirit within him was his Comforter.
- **Shipwreck.** As Paul was being transported to Rome for imprisonment, the ship was in danger of sinking because of a storm. When everyone was discouraged and losing hope, Paul encouraged them not to give up (Acts 27:21-36).

One of the ways Paul still encourages us today is through the letters he wrote to the churches.

- **Romans.** Nothing can “separate us from the love of God ... in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).
- **Galatians.** The Holy Spirit manifests through us qualities we could never produce ourselves— “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23).
- **Corinthians.** We are assured of our future resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-58).
- **Ephesians.** God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world and sealed us as His children with His Spirit (Eph. 1:4, 13-14).
- **Philippians.** He promises to supply all our needs “according to His riches in glory” (Phil. 4:19).
- **Colossians.** We have God’s instructions regarding our relationships with each other (Col. 3:18-21).
- **Thessalonians.** We are given hope for our loved ones’ resurrection and our ultimate reunion with Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

How to become an encourager with our speech:

- *Give a sincere compliment. *Speak the truth with love. Agree when appropriate.
- *Pass on helpful information. *Encourage with Scripture and pray for them.
- *Correct them when it’s appropriate. *Let them know you love them.
- *Comfort and assure them when they need it. *Say thank you.

With our actions:

- *Offer a smile or give a gift. *Don’t interrupt but listen quietly.
- *Hug them. Forgive them. Serve them. *Point out their accomplishments and reward them.
- *Be honest and patient. *Accept them as they are.

*Point them in the right direction. *Motivate them to be and do their best.

Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. What words or actions do/have you use to encourage others?
2. What does it take to encourage you?

●Impact God's WORLD (20 min)

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ●any planned group activity ●important church announcements ●next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

CLOSING – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.