

BE ENCOURAGED

BIG IDEA

Be an encourager!

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:10-27 aloud

OPENER

Who has been a Barnabas (Son of Encouragement) in your life? How did their encouragement impact you?

QUESTIONS

1. Why should we be encouragers according to this week's sermon?
2. Why is it important to encourage the leaders in your life? What are some practical ways you can be an encourager to leadership?
3. In Dave's sermon he told us that everyone needs to do something to advance the cause of Christ. What are you doing? If you aren't doing anything, is there an area in the church where your talents and interests could benefit the church body?
4. How can we encourage a timid person without making them feel pressured?
5. Describe some ways people may be "weak." At a weak time in your life, were you encouraged by someone? Share.
6. Tell of receiving an encouraging note, email, or text and how did that make you feel? Tell of sending an encouraging note, email, or text and how did *that* make you feel?
7. Have you ever gotten a greeting that made you feel so welcomed and encouraged (perhaps at church)? Explain.
8. Share a time when someone served you in a way that was encouraging.
9. Who needs to be encouraged by you tonight? Take out your phone and text someone right now.

TAKEAWAY

WHY we should encourage: Christ died for us; therefore, we should encourage and build each other up.

WHO we should encourage: leaders, uninvolved, timid, weak, everyone.

HOW we should encourage: use spoken and written words, appropriate physical touch and acts of service.

REFERENCES

- Proverbs 16:24, 18:9, 18:21
- Acts 4:36
- Hebrews 3:13, 3:17
- Jude 22
- 1 John 4:19

WORD WEALTH

Precept: A general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.

Exhortation: An address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Encouragement comes from within the encourager. Read 1 Thess 5:16-18 and note the practical exhortation Paul provides for believers. **Rejoice** always, **pray** continually, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is **God's will for you** in Christ Jesus (NIV).
 - Discuss how incorporating each of these precepts in your life affects your ability to encourage others.
 - How will you prepare yourself daily to be in a proper mental and spiritual condition to be an encourager to others?
- What would your nickname (Barnabas = Son of Encouragement; Peter = Rock; Jacob = Deceiver) be if they named you after your dominant characteristics? Would you be happy to be addressed this way in church? Why?