

Small Group Outline for Week of January 25, 2021
The One Another Series
“Encourage One Another”

Welcome and opening:

Take an object in the room; anything, and as a group list all the good features and usefulness of the object.

(Wait until above question finished) If this object had feelings, how would it feel now?

How do you I feel when complimented?

It has been stated that it takes as many as 10 compliments and encouraging words to erase one put-down or discouraging word. Hmm... what do you think about that?

Read over the following Bible Verses. Read a few verses before and after each verse.

What the Biblical writer (Apostle Paul) trying to say to the Church?

What the Biblical writer (Apostle Paul) trying to say to you?

- 2 Corinthians 13:11
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Hebrews 3:13
- Hebrews 10:24-25

Read these paragraphs from Nathaniel Friesen’s message (Jan 24/21)

The church holds an important role, like it or not, and it is vital for our spiritual health to be connected into a church. I know that there are those out there who have been hurt by churches in the past, and I’m not excusing any mistakes made by churches, but not being connected to a church because you are afraid of getting hurt is the wrong attitude to have. You may think that going at it alone is the safer option, but it isn’t!

Hebrews teaches us that ‘encouraging one another’ should be about walking together and reminding each other of whom we have put our faith in. When we put it all together, what do we see?

Pastor Garret Kell of Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, spoke about this, and the way he put it is better than I could. He said:

“We live in a broken world where everything calls us toward selfishness and despair. Sin steals joy, our bodies break down, our plans falter, our dreams die, our resolves weaken, our perspective dims. We are promised suffering, persecution, and trials of various kinds.

When encouragement is absent from the life of a church people will feel unloved, unimportant, useless, and forgotten. God knows his people are in need of grace-filled reminders, so he calls us to encourage each other every day until his Son returns (Heb. 3:13).”

Encouragement is shared to lift someone’s heart toward the Lord. It points out evidences of the gospel at work in another’s life to help them see that God is using them. It points a person to God’s promises that assures them that all they face is under his control.

The New Testament reveals that encouragement was a regular part of the early church’s life together. They shared Scripture-saturated words with each other to spur one another on in faith, hope, unity, joy, strength, fruitfulness, faithfulness, perseverance, and the certainty of Christ’s return. We need to ask ourselves, are we encouraging others in this way? Are we committed to the ministry of encouragement, or content to offer the occasional compliment?

Discussion:

- How important are compliments and encouraging words?
- How can compliments and encouragements not be helpful?
- Tell of a time you were complimented or encouraged. How did you feel?

Application:

This exercise will depend on current COVID restrictions:

Leader: have quarter sheet or half sheet papers for each person x participants in the group. You may print them up as nice cards or just have blank ones.

Take some time at the meeting to begin writing encouraging notes for each person; the goal is to have these ready for next week or the next time you are together.

Options:

- If you are able to physically meet, hand out the cards
- Or instruct participants to email each person
- Or instruct participants to mail each person with the card