

I'M ENCOURAGING
STAY POSITIVE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. 2 Corinthians 7:5-6 NLT

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. Romans 1:10-12 NLT

...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. 1 Samuel 30:6 KJV

THREE OF THE MOST SPIRITUAL THINGS TO DO

1. Encourage others daily.
2. Encourage others spiritually.
3. Encourage yourself in the Lord.

"Encouraging others is one of the most spiritual things you can do."

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever given or received a not-so-encouraging response to a new outfit, haircut, etc.? Share a story.
- What happened the last time someone encouraged you?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Why do you think Pastor Jeff calls encouraging others one of the most spiritual things you can do? Hint: 2 Corinthians 7:5-6
- Looking at the passages used in this study, why is it important to encourage others frequently?
- Who do you want to encourage daily? How could you spiritually encourage them?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Have you ever felt prompted to encourage someone? How did it turn out?
- Hebrews 10:24-25 hints at a Christians having strategic mindset for encouraging others. What are some strategies you can implement to encourage others consistently as a normal part of your life? If you already have a strategy, please share it.
- Talk about a time you could identify with Paul's "battles on the outside and fear on the inside"? What got you through?
- Who do you know who is great at encouraging people? How do they go about it?
- Which of Pastor Jeff's three points is most difficult for you? Ask the group for ideas for making progress.

Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

- *God, You're our ever-present help in trouble. You sent the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. Will you teach us to encourage each other as You encourage us? Amen.*

Start digging. Read Scripture about being encouraging.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Matthew 3:16-17

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Proverbs 12:25

Start doing. Commit to a step and begin living it this week.

- What are some practical steps we can take to better encourage others and ourselves this week?
- Set a daily reminder in your phone to encourage someone.

OUR GOD IS AN ENCOURAGING GOD

When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside.⁶ But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. 2 Corinthians 7:5-6 NLT

THREE OF THE MOST SPIRITUAL THINGS YOU CAN DO

1) ENCOURAGE OTHERS DAILY

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

NOTES: _____

2) ENCOURAGE OTHERS SPIRITUALLY

One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you.¹¹ For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord.¹² When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. Romans 1:10-12 NLT

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3) ENCOURAGE YOURSELF IN THE LORD

...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. 1 Samuel 30:6 KJV

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REFLECTION

Have you ever felt prompted to encourage someone? How did it turn out?

What are some practical steps we can take to better encourage others and ourselves this week?