

Guide for Growth Group Hosts

Week #9: I'm Encouraging

THINK ABOUT IT

What did you enjoy most about the message from last week? Share it with the group!

MAIN GROWTH GROUP 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)***

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- The Bible tells us (above) that God is an encouraging God. What are some ways that God has encouraged you recently?
- In the verse above it mentions that they were specifically encouraged by God through something. What was it? What does this verse tell us about one of the ways that God encourages us?
- (Read the Verse Below) It's important that we encourage others daily. As you encourage others, you are reminded of God's goodness. The enemy wants to deceive you by influencing you to focus on your current problems. What can you do practically to remind yourself of God's goodness to prevent you from focusing on your problems?

*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 (NIV)***

- (Read the Verse Below) It's important to meet in large group settings (Sunday service) and small group settings (Growth Groups) to give and receive encouragement. What story, testimony, bible verse, etc., has encouraged you the most during this Growth Group semester?

*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)***

- In the verse above it tells us that we should think of ways to motivate one another. In your telephone conversations or on your lunchbreak at work, are you motivating people to acts of love and good works when they have problems with others, or do you add fuel to the fire?

- (Read the Verse Below) We should always encourage others spiritually. What are a few ways that you can encourage others in their faith? How can you encourage your spouse or best friend in their faith?

*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)***

- The verse above talks about encouraging others in their faith and being encouraged by others. There will always be people around us who are pessimists (people who focus on and talk about the worst in every situation). Why is it important to surround yourself with people who will encourage you in your faith?
- It's important that you encourage yourself in the lord. What are some ways that you can encourage yourself using the Bible when you feel discouraged?

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

LIFE APPLICATION

There's a church in the southern U.S. that uses the term *irrational generosity* (going above and beyond in terms of generosity to be a blessing to someone else). How can you use irrational generosity to encourage someone during this holiday season?

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at www.experienceheritage.org/blog. You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- Read the verse below each day during your quiet time with God.

*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)***

PRAYER GUIDANCE

During the prayer time, see if anyone has a prayer request. Next, have each person in the group say a short prayer for everyone based on the requests.



Growth Group Checklist

- Discuss the Group Serve Project with your group. A possible option would be to serve at The Pantry which is on Saturdays.
- Discuss the details of your Growth Group end of the semester celebration.
- Encourage the group participants to have a “quiet time” with God each day to study the bible and pray.
- Encourage the group participants to pray for each other during the week.
- Remind the participants that they can view the message each week on our website: <http://experienceheritage.org>