

**Encourage One Another**  
*Our Covenant Life Together*  
*I Thessalonians 5:9-15*  
*Sunday, January 24, 2010*

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**God's WORD and God's PEOPLE are**

**God's means to bring about LIFE CHANGE.**

2. Encouraging relationships can keep us from being \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

3. Encouraging relationships are God's \_\_\_\_\_ for healthy \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Practicing the Art of Encouragement

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (God's Word whenever possible!)
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### I. The Clear Call to Encouragement

A. The Definition of Encouragement

Parakaleo = "to call alongside"

B. 3 Dimensions of Encouragement

1. Affirmation (praise)
2. Consolation (comfort)
3. Exhortation (challenge)

### II. Our Common Need for Encouragement

1. Encouraging relationships can help us hold on to the \_\_\_\_\_ when life's \_\_\_\_\_ tear us down and wear us out.

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*1 Thessalonians 5:9-15*

*Our hope is that you would come to your Growth Group having worked through and written down answers to the following questions in advance. This will allow for engaged and vibrant discussion together. Since space is limited on this sheet, we encourage you to use a separate notepad or notebook for recording your answers.*

**CONNECTING with One Another**

Open your time, by checking in with one another to see how you're doing and how one another's week was. It may be helpful to ask a fun "get to know you question" or two like these. . . .

1. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
2. What's your favorite movie and why?
3. What's your favorite radio station?

**EXPLORING God's Word with One Another**

*(We're expecting you didn't get through all these questions last week. So this week, pick up some of the questions you didn't get to and take the study of encouragement a bit further and deeper.)*

1. What does the word encouragement mean?
2. What are 3 dimensions of Biblical encouragement?
3. What's the relationship between 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 and verse 11?

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*1 Thessalonians 5:9-15*

4. Look up 3-5 other verses where this same Greek word is used. Which of the three dimensions of encouragement seems to be in view in each passage?  
Romans 12:8, 15:4, 2 Corinthians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 2 Timothy 4:2, Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25, 13:22, 1 Peter 5:1.

**APPLYING God's Word with One Another**

1. Who is someone who has encouraged you recently or in your life? How did they do that?
2. Who is someone in your world that you can encourage in the coming days? How are you going to do that?
3. Of the 3 ways to encourage (listen, speak, pray) which are you better at? Which do you need to grow in?
4. What are some practical and concrete ways your Growth Group can practice the art of encouragement this quarter?

**PRAYING for One Another**

1. Quickly share personal requests.
2. Use the truth of the message as a "springboard" to pray for your personal growth and your Growth Group.