

**Encourage One Another**  
*Our Covenant Life Together*  
*I Thessalonians 5:8-15*  
*Sunday, January 17, 2010*

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**II. Our Common Need for Encouragement**

- Because the Gospel is hard to hold on to when life's circumstances tear us down and wear us out.
  
- Because encouraging relationships are God's \_\_\_\_\_  
  
for healthy \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Practicing the Art of Encouragement**

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

**God's \_\_\_\_\_ and God's \_\_\_\_\_ are**  
**God's means to bring about \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I. The Clear Call to Encouragement**

A. The Definition of Encouragement

Parakaleo = " \_\_\_\_\_ "

B. 3 Dimensions of Encouragement

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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*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 is space is limited on this sheet, we encourage you to use a separate notepad or notebook for recording your answers.*

**CONNECTING with One Another**

This first week, make sure you spend ample time getting to know one another. If you're a continuing group, spend time catching up.

If your group is new or you're adding new members, spend time getting acquainted using a couple of these questions . . .

- Where do you live and work?
- How long have you been coming to GraceSLO?
- Why did you sign up for a Growth Group?
- What do you hope to give and gain from involvement in a Growth Group?

**EXPLORING God's Word with One Another (15 -20 min)**

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

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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? What 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.