



Who would you consider a great encourager in your life? Why?

Identify specific ways that you have encouraged a professional church worker in your sphere.
Share with a partner or in the small group.

During this Bible study, we will explore our God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and the encouragement He shares with His people. We will look at various workers in the Bible who encouraged and who received encouragement for their ministry among God's people. We praise and thank God for His gifts of grace and salvation because of Jesus. We can admonish, forgive, and encourage one another, particularly those who work for the Lord in our midst.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 urges us to *encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we come before You today to thank You for creating and sustaining our lives. We confess that we have sinned against You and thank You for the gift of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior. You encourage us by sending Your Holy Spirit, in Word and Sacraments, who works through our lives. The Spirit, our Helper, enables us to encourage and build one another up as we share Your message of salvation with those around us. Bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Our God of Encouragement

Read **Psalms 46**. Identify specific situations and the ways that our God encourages us through these inspired words.

Faith Talk

Read again **Psalms 46:1**. What do the words "*a very present help in times of trouble*" mean to you personally? _____

What did our Savior accomplish for us in **Philippians 2:5-11**? _____

How does reading these Bible verses or reciting the Apostles' Creed in worship offer us encouragement in our walk with the Lord? _____

According to **Hebrews 6:13-20**, what is the encouragement that we have to hold fast to the hope set before us? _____

Who gives us faith, nurtures our faith, encourages us to grow in faith through the Word, and gives us the power to share that faith with those around us? See **John 14:26** and **Acts 1:8-11**. _____

According to the following Bible passages, how does the Holy Spirit, the Helper, work in our lives?

1 Thessalonians 2:11-13 _____

Romans 6:3-5 _____

Matthew 26:26-28 _____

If time permits

Read the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus in **Luke 9:28-36**. How was the transfiguration encouraging for Jesus in light of His mission here on earth? For His disciples?

God's People of Encouragement

Our loving and gracious God of encouragement asks that we share that encouragement with one another. Read again **1 Thessalonians 5:11**. What action is paired with encouragement in this passage? Why? _____

Read **Hebrews 13:7**. Who are God's people encouraged to imitate? _____

What does Paul say will mutually encourage him and the Romans in **Romans 1:11-12**? _____

Faith Talk

Why would God's people want to encourage their spiritual leaders and workers in the church? Consider **1 Peter 5:8** and discuss why this encouragement is so important.

Look up the following Bible passages. Identify the encourager and the person or group that is being encouraged. In addition, identify what type of encouragement is given.

Deuteronomy 1:38; 3:28 _____

1 Samuel 18:1, 3 _____

2 Chronicles 35:1-2 _____

Acts 15:30-32 _____

Philippians 4:1-3 _____

Colossians 2:1-3 _____

Colossians 4:7-9 _____

Read **Romans 15:4-7; Philippians 2:1-4; and Philippians 4:4-9**. All three Bible passages deal with the relationships between our Christian brothers and sisters. What specific encouraging characteristics given by the Spirit are needed in the body of Christ? List at least ten characteristics. _____

As their pastor, why would Paul's joy be "complete" (**Philippians 2:2**) if his parishioners exhibited these characteristics? Would the same be true for your pastors, teachers, church workers, parents, grandparents, and all those who teach us God's Word and lead us in faith? _____

Read **Acts 27:33-36**. What type of encouragement is given? _____

If time permits

See the following Bible passages for examples of women who gave this same type of encouragement: **1 Samuel 25:18, 23, 35a; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Luke 7:37-38; Luke 10:38; Luke 10:39; and Acts 18:1-3**. Can you think of others?

If time permits

Read **Acts 18:24-28**. What success story about encouragement is related? How can admonition in a loving manner be encouraging?

Faith Talk

Share with a partner or the small group specific ways that you can privately and publicly encourage a professional church worker or their spouse in your midst. Make a list and a timeline to accomplish this.

Faith Walk

1. Encourage and thank a pastor or other church worker who has imitated faith to you and been influential in your life. Be intentional — write a note, send a card, or speak words of encouragement.
2. By the power of the Spirit, encourage a special woman in your life of the salvation you share together in Christ.
3. Look for opportunities to encourage Christian brothers and sisters and then just do it!
4. Find out the special days in your professional church workers' lives. Encourage them to celebrate or celebrate with them.

Closing Litany (based on **Colossians 3:12-17**):

Leader: Help us, dear Lord, as Your chosen ones, holy and beloved,

Group: To put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Leader: Help us to bear with one another, and if we have a complaint against another,

Group: To forgive each other as You, Lord, have forgiven us.

Leader: Enable us to put on love that binds us together in perfect harmony.

Group: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and help us to be thankful.

Leader: Let Your Word dwell in us richly,

Group: As You help us to wisely teach and admonish one another.

Leader: We thankfully sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in praise to You.

Group: We give You thanks, Father, as You help us to do everything in word and deed,

All: In the name and for the sake of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Closing Song (sing together): "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (LSB #649; LW #295; TLH #464).

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