



ENCOURAGING OTHERS

A Quick Guide to Small Groups





Summary

You are in a position to impact and influence others in a profound way through life-giving encouragement.



Two Minute Read



Small Group Commitment #6 *Celebrate Growth*



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If you are living and breathing, you need encouragement. You need small and steady doses of life-giving affirmation. Like an IV that is running into your veins, every one of us needs a constant drip of validation. The best part of speaking words of encouragement is that it doesn't cost you anything. It's free. It only takes a few minutes every day. And you do not need the so-called "gift of encouragement" to be an encouraging person.

Without encouragement, life might feel pointless and more burdensome.

Just as God wired you to receive encouragement, He also created you to be an agent of encouragement. You can bring words of healing, hope, assurance and confidence to those who desperately need it.

Words breath life or death into the soul. *There's no middle ground. You can either build someone up or you can choose to tear them down.*

From a wobbly toddler learning to walk, to a successful CEO of a global company, every person on the planet craves encouragement. Regardless of how your day is going, words of encouragement have the power to instantly change your outlook. Few things have this transforming power. From the tip of your tongue, to texting in the palm of your hand, you are called to share words of encouragement with the people God brings into your life.

One way we fight and stand against Satan is through encouragement.



Theological Truth

The biblical purpose for sharing words of encouragement is far greater than turning a frown upside down. Encouraging others is a critical way to fight against Satan. As the *Father of Lies*, Satan is the exact opposite of encouragement. As the *Deceiver*, he whispers doubt and despair. And these are just two names that personify Satan and his plan to bring you down. As the *Power of Darkness and Ruler of Darkness*, he lurks in the shadows to steal, kill and destroy every ounce of joy. This is why he's called *Thief, Liar, Enemy, Lawless One, Murderer, Tempter, Destroyer, Adversary, Wicked One, Evil One, Beast and King of the Bottomless Pit*.



Ideas to Consider

People are starving for life-giving words of encouragement and God put you in the position to help them.

- **Consider the other person.** Sharing words of encouragement is all about the other person. It's not self-serving or a roundabout way to gain something in return. In short this says, *"I'm thinking about you and I care for you."*
- **If you think of it twice, tell the person.** Words of encouragement point us to deep and meaningful relationships. In the midst of fleeting thoughts, when the Lord brings someone to your mind, it's your job to reach out and tell them. Don't withhold good from others. Sharing encouragement is a subtle way to say, *"I see you. You're not alone."*
- **Don't water it down.** When offering words of encouragement, the most important thing to remember is to speak in specifics. Be crystal clear. Encouragement that is most life-giving is tailored to specific situations. This isn't flattery. Offering words of encouragement is an essential way to identify progress and tell others, *"I see God working in your life!"*
- **Impart courage.** The reason encouraging words are so powerful is because it instills confidence and courage. Everyone wants to be encouraged, but only some actually do it. Encouraging others doesn't make you look weak. Instead, it is a simple way to recognize the strengths of others. *"I am so encouraged to see how God has given you the ability to do this so well. This is truly a gift that you have."*