

Group Resource

## Sermon Notes – Sunday, December 2, 2012

### ONE ANOTHER

**Message:** “Encourage One Another”

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:23-25

- I. Throughout the ups and downs of life, God has called His people to encourage one another.
  - a. God is not ignorant of the fact that everyone, including believers, will experience peaks and valleys in their lives. In John 16:33, Jesus says, “In this world you will have trouble.” Jesus concludes this verse by reminding believers that we are to “take heart! [for He has] overcome the world.”
  - b. The good news is that God has not left us by ourselves in the midst of these troubles. Rather, God has called each of us to gather together, encourage one another and spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
  - c. King David was a great example of someone who had great victories, in addition to experiencing the challenges of life. When King David was in one of his darkest valleys, God sent Jonathan to encourage David and help him **find strength in God**.
  - d. Encouragement is difficult while isolated. Many of us reject those whom God has sent to us for our own encouragement.
- II. Encouragement causes us to spur one another on towards love and good deeds.
  - a. Encouragement is more than saying something nice – it is considering how we can help one another **find their strength in God**. To encourage means to provoke, to irritate, to excite, to sharpen, to stimulate or to call into activity for a worthy purpose.
  - b. Our encouragement has to push us past our temporary circumstances so that we recognize our eternal destiny and worth.
- III. The primary ways that we spur one another on toward love and good deeds is by what we say and what we do.
  - a. What should we say to one another?
    - i. We are called to speak blessings over each others’ lives. (*1 Peter 3:9*)
    - ii. We are called to share our testimony. (*Revelation 12:11*)
    - iii. We are called to share Godly wisdom. (*Colossians 3:16*)
    - iv. We are called to giving thanks for one another. (*Ephesians 1:16*)
  - b. What should we do for one another?
    - i. When we are compassionate towards others, our actions encourage them to find their strength in God.
    - ii. As God comforts and encourages us, we are to share that same encouragement with others who go through similar situations that we have endured. (*2 Corinthians 1:3*)

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## Let's Talk Notes – Week of December 2, 2012

**Message:** “Encourage One Another

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-11

- 1) What has been a particularly meaningful way in which someone has encouraged you in the last year? What made their encouragement special? How did their encouragement help you?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp? Were you challenged in any area of your personal walk with God?
- 3) Why is it important for us to be consistently **present** and **aware of others** as we gather together as the church? What benefit do we receive from being present in church? How does the rest of the church benefit from our presence at church?
- 4) Encouragement requires empathy. Hebrews 4:15 reminds us that, “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.” How do we encourage others without encouraging actions that are contrary to God's will?
- 5) Our actions can greatly encourage others in God. What are some ways that you can encourage your family, housemates, neighbors, co-workers, church members, or unsaved loved ones by your actions? From your group's suggestions, select one action that you can implement this week.
- 6) Finish this sentence. “I am encouraged as part of this real.life group because \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 7) **Read Ephesians 4:1-3.** Encouragement should spur us to find strength in God. In groups of 2 or 3 share one way that you can spur (provoke, stimulate, sharpen) one another to continue to live a life worthy of the Lord. If you have noticed specific areas that your group members have demonstrated growth during this session of real.life groups, please share that with them.