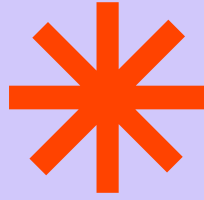


Leaders Gathering



Encouraging and empowering mission minded leaders.

Faith to be an Encourager

BIG IDEA:

In the Old Testament, God says, “fear not” 365 times, indicating that God does not want his people living in fear or anxiety. We know many people struggle with fear and anxiety, and it is our heart and goal as leaders to help lift those struggling by being generous with our words and bringing encouragement. The definition of encourage is to give support, confidence, or hope to someone.

“If you are a leader, you should never forget that everyone needs encouragement. And everyone who receives it - young or old, successful or less-than-successful, unknown or famous - is changed by it.” - John Maxwell

KEY SCRIPTURES:

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 NLT

Colossians 4:12-13 NLT

1 Samuel 30:6 ESV

Acts 4:36 ESV

1 Corinthians 14:2-3 ESV

Why Do People Need Encouragement?

Fear of...

- Lack
- Failure
- Inadequacy

- Stepping out in faith
 - Isolation
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How Do People Receive Encouragement?

Presence and Proximity

- Your presence brings encouragement, much like God's presence lifts us
- Being there for people in key moments, good and bad
- Being in the presence of others lifts you
- Some have coined this the “ministry of presence”
- Sometimes you don’t need to quote a scripture but just be there

“When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. **But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. His presence was a joy,** but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you. When he told us how much you long to see me, and how sorry you are for what happened, and how loyal you are to me, I was filled with joy!”

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 NLT

Prayer

- It's always refreshing to know someone is genuinely praying for you
- Think of times where people have sincerely prayed for you (it’s encouraging)
- Be sure to actually pray for them! Do not just say, “I’m praying for you.”

“Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God.

I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis.”

Colossians 4:12-13 NLT

Personal & Internal Motivation

- When you are young in the Lord, you often need 80% external motivation (i.e. others saying, “You did a great job!” or giving encouragement), while only 20% comes from within.

- Make it a priority to grow in internal motivation, needing only 20% from external sources. Sometimes, we will need to encourage ourselves in the Lord, just as David did.
- When Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife he did the right thing but found himself wrongly accused and in prison. You may not see immediate results after obedience, but be encouraged that God sees and will reward. He did the right thing but experienced what he thought was the wrong result.

“And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters, but David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”

1 Samuel 30:6 ESV

People

- Many times, encouragement comes from people around us. As leaders, we aspire to encourage others in the faith!
- Barnabus means “son of encouragement”

“Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,”

Acts 4:36 ESV

Prophecy

- Prophecy is not just for the prophets! As you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit, He will reveal scriptures and thoughts - share what the Lord reveals to those who need to hear it.
 - A word from the Lord for someone
 - A verse comes to your heart for someone
- As you pray for individuals, be sensitive to the images or words that come to mind, specific prayers you begin to pray for them, then encourage them with that word.

“For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.”

1 Corinthians 14:2-3 ESV

How to Encourage Someone

Create & Initiate Encouragement

- As you pray for people who come to mind, be sensitive to words or phrases you begin to pray for them
- Write a card, send a voice memo, send a text message, call
- Be sensitive to moments where you can encourage someone
 - Someone wants to quit, encourage to not turn back
 - Someone did the right thing but now facing challenges, encourage to keep moving in obedience
 - Someone is fearful of the future, encourage them with God's promises
 - Someone is fearful of the economy, encourage them of God's faithfulness
- Don't wait for someone to encourage you - you step out and refresh others
- Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed

Replicate Encouragement

- Encourage the people in your sphere of influence to become an encourager
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Three Areas of Encouragement

1. **Body** (outward encouragement) - *lowest level*

- Compliments about shoes, hair, etc
- "You look great today"

2. **Soul** (mind, will, emotions) - *middle level*

- Praise for an idea or the way someone handled a situation
- "I love the way you delivered that message"

3. **Spirit** - *highest level*

- Encourage someone's identity and future
 - Encourage them spiritually
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