

Encouraging Encouraging



Instructor's Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

Church of the Nazarene

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.



Encouraging Encouraging

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Module Introduction	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce Module, purpose and objective.
II. Lecture	25 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator shares ways to inspire God's people to inspire others to live for Him.
III. Small Group Activity	20 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator leads discussion on the value of encouragement and how to put into practice.
IV. Action Planning	15 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants begin preparing their homework assignments.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 70 mins.			



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I. Module Introduction

(5 Minutes)

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

*The purpose of this module is to:
Inspire God’s people to inspire others to live for Him.*



*The objective for this module are:
To offer encouragement to Christ-followers to
encourage others to follow His lead.*

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II. Lecture

(25 Minutes)

I. Introduction

- A. When we **ENCOURAGE** people, they are inspired, given hope, stimulated to serve, and injected with courage.
- B. We could say encouragement is a “courage transfusion.”
- C. When we encourage others, we **AFFIRM** their value and importance.
- D. Encouragement **REINFORCES** the significance of the relationship we have with others.
- E. Encouragement **SHARES** hope-filled words, e.g. “You make a difference in my life.”
- F. Encouragement **EXPRESSES** appreciation for the past, affirmation of present friendships, and a positive future forecast.

II. Scriptures that Encourage Encouraging:

- A. Hebrews 10:24 teaches encouragement is a . . .
 - 1. **PRODUCTIVE** ministry--“ . . . spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
 - 2. **PRIDELESS** (selfless) ministry—“consider one another.”
 - 3. **PROVOKING** ministry—“spur one another.”
 - 4. **PEOPLE-FOCUSED** ministry—“one another.”
 - 5. **PROGRESSIVE** ministry—“. . .and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- B. Hebrews 3:13 calls for a . . .
 - 1. **PRESSING** ministry--“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today...”
 - 2. **PERSISTENT** ministry—“But encourage one another daily, . . .”
 - 3. **PREVENTATIVE** ministry—“. . . so none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

*Tim Dailey’s principles and alliteration

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II. Lecture (cont.)

C. Romans 12:8

1. God **GIVES** the gift of encouragement to the church through individuals.
2. Some people are uniquely **EQUIPPED** to build up others through encouragement.
3. Barnabas encouraged people. The New Testament church sent him out to build up Christians. He sought out Paul to help him with the work of ministry (Acts 11:22-26).
4. All Christians are to **TAKE** responsibility for encouraging others.

D. Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

1. Paul knew how to encourage tired Christians.
2. He **IDENTIFIED** our tendency to quit doing good because we do not see the results.
3. He knew persistence pays off.

E. Our tongues may speak death and life (James 3:9-12).

1. Life-destroying words **HURT** feelings, stir up anger, ignite hate and shameful feelings.
2. Life-building words **CAUSE** joy, increase character, and give hope.

F. I Thess. 4:13-18—encouraged the grieving even in times of loss.

1. “Encourage each other with these words” (I Thess. 4:18).
2. Jesus will return to earth (4:16).
3. Life lived with the Lord is lived forever (4:17).
4. Those who are alive in Christ will be united with those who died (4:17).
5. Comfort is found in the family of God, “brothers” (4:13).

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II. Lecture (cont.)

III. How are we to understand encouragement?

- A. Encouragement is a **GIFT** and a role.
 - 1. All Christians are to assume the role as encouragers.
 - 2. Some Christians are exceptionally gifted as encouragers.
- B. Encouragement is an **EXTENSION** of the Holy Spirit's work.
- C. Encouragement is **INDISPENSABLE** to the life of the Church.

IV. How does encouragement relate to evangelism?

- A. Encouragers are climate-changers.
- B. Encouragers **SPEAK** faith and optimism into other Christians.
- C. Encouragers **GATHER** people around their spirit of hope.
 - 1. **SPEAK** blessings
 - 2. **POINT** to God's guidance.
 - 3. **BELIEVE** the future is in God's hands.
 - 4. **WALK** in faith
 - 5. **LEAD** people to Jesus.

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III. Small Group Activity

(20 minutes)

The small group exercise portion of the module provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

Tom Barnard wrote, “The path of discouragement: Discouragement leads to Doubt leads to Defeat leads to Dismay leads to Depression leads to Destruction of a person’s future and hope.”

- What do you think of that pathway?
- Who needs encouraging?
- How do exceptional encouragers encourage others?
- Conduct a personal conversation audit to see what needs altering.
- How do people feel after they have been with you?

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions. Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

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VI. Action Planning/Reporting

This section gives the participants an opportunity to discuss their plans for using this information.

The homework assignment for this module includes answering the following questions:

1. Who are the encouragers in your congregation?
2. How could we inspire their continuous ministry among us and in the community at large?
3. What resources or support would they value?

Let's take about 15 minutes to discuss how you plan to use this information as a church. In your material, you have an Action Planning/Reporting page.

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions that are not focused on the assignment and guide them in completing the questions. Let the groups know when there are five minutes remaining and ask them to begin to conclude their discussions.

V. Module Wrap-Up

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

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