



The purpose of this module is to:

Inspire God's people to inspire others to live for Him.

Objective:

- *To offer encouragement to Christ-followers to encourage others to follow His lead.*

I. Introduction

- A. When we _____ 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 _____ their value and importance.
- D. Encouragement _____ the significance of the relationship we have with others.
- E. Encouragement _____ hope-filled words, e.g. “You make a difference in my life.”
- F. Encouragement _____ 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. _____ ministry--“ . . . spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
 2. _____ (selfless) ministry—“consider one another.”
 3. _____ ministry—“spur one another.”
 4. _____ ministry—“one another.”
 5. _____ ministry—“ . . .and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

B. Hebrews 3:13 calls for a . . .

1. _____ ministry--“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today...”
2. _____ ministry—“But encourage one another daily, . . .”
3. _____ ministry—“. . . so none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

C. Romans 12:8

1. God _____ the gift of encouragement to the church through individuals.
2. Some people are uniquely _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ feelings, stir up anger, ignite hate and shameful feelings.
2. Life-building words _____ 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).

III. How are we to understand encouragement?

- A. Encouragement is a _____ 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 _____ of the Holy Spirit’s work.
- C. Encouragement is _____ to the life of the Church.

IV. How does encouragement relate to evangelism?

- A. Encouragers are climate-changers.
- B. Encouragers _____ faith and optimism into other Christians.
- C. Encouragers _____ people around their spirit of hope.
1. _____ blessings
 2. _____ to God’s guidance.
 3. _____ the future is in God’s hands.
 4. _____ in faith
 5. _____ people to Jesus.

Small Group Activity:

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?

Action Planning/Reporting:

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?