



# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: "ENCOURAGE & BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP"

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:23-25

Date: October 18th, 2015

## STORIES OF FAITH

God is at work every day: What are some Missional opportunities that you engaged in this week? As you begin your time together, invite the group to share 'Evidences of God's Grace' that they experienced or observed this week. This questions is to help focus our attention to what God is doing in the everyday routines of life.

## OPENING COMMENT

A The first Christians in the early church faced much doubt, uncertainty, fear and anxiety not only because of the "newness and confusion of this new faith and it's leader Jesus, but also because of the resulting persecution of this new "sect" (persecution from both sides, the jews and the Romans.) The early church understood the need for encouragement (to be filled with courage), along with "building one another up" and "spurring one another on" towards good deeds. They had experienced much fear, pain and grief, not the least of which was "losing Jesus to death. One of the greatest things you can do is to encourage someone else!

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." Hebrews 3:13*

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."  
Hebrews 10:23-25*

## WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

1. After reading the text above and in light of Sunday's message, review and discuss what the words "encourage", "build up" and "spur on" mean.
2. How does the "encourage one another" fit into the context of the body of Christ today?
3. Why was the early church encouraged "not to give up meeting together"? What does this say to our culture's natural tendency for isolation from others and the Church today?
4. Why are these commands important for a follower of Jesus to live out on a daily basis, inside and outside the church?
5. Encourage is a combination of two words: The preposition "In" and the noun "Courage". To "in-courage" literally means to "put courage into someone". Giving them the ability to do something that frightens them. Biblically the word "encourage" means to "comfort", "exhort", or to be "called alongside someone". When faced with an opportunity to come alongside someone, where you could bring comfort, strength, consoling or possibly even a challenge, what is your natural tendency? Engage or avoid? Why?
6. Describe a time when you were living in fear, pain or loss and someone built you up or encouraged you. What did it look like? Feel like? What did they do right? What did they do wrong?
7. Describe a time when you tried to encourage, build someone up or spur someone on. How did it turn out? What did you learn from the experience?
8. Is there someone in your group today that needs encouragement? What can you do, as a group, to encourage them? If you personally, are overwhelmed by a fear, are living in pain or have recently experienced a loss, be honest with your group and let them help you! Is there something your group can do to encourage, build up the people who are outside your group and part of Central that serve so faithfully or that attend on a regular basis that may not be well connected yet? How can you contribute personally to the building up of the body of Christ?

## SHARE AND PRAY TOGETHER

Take time to share with one another your "call to action" plans for the coming week. Maybe there is support needed to help the members of the

group to step out in faith and be an encouragement to someone. Or maybe someone in your group needs to be encouraged today.

What are some missional opportunities in your life that your group can be praying for in the coming week?