

## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Encourage One Another

Week of February 24, 2019

### WHY WE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Read John 16:29-33.
2. Discuss the trouble and hopelessness you see in the world and in your life.
3. Discuss how encouragement should be focused on the hope we have in Christ,
4. Discuss this statement: *When encouragement is absent from the life of a church people will feel unloved, unimportant, useless, and forgotten. God knows his people are in need of grace-filled reminders, so he calls us to encourage each other every day until his Son returns (Heb. 3:13).*

### WHAT IS ENCOURAGEMENT?

Discuss the difference between secular encouragement and spiritual encouragement.

- Biblical encouragement isn't focused on complementing someone. Encouragement is shared with the intention of lifting someone's heart toward the Lord (Col. 4:8).
- Take a look at the life of Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37, Acts 9:26-27, and Acts 15:36-41. Discuss some of the elements of encouragement you learn from his life.

### HOW DO I GROW IN BEING AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS?

1. *Pray for God to make you an encourager by focusing on others more than self.*
2. *Make encouragement a daily discipline.*
3. *Pray for God to show you who to encourage.*
4. *Use Scripture.*
5. *Be specific in what you say.*
6. *Regularly encourage your pastors.*
7. *Pray that God would create a culture of encouragement in your church.*
8. *Get started. Who can you encourage right now? Who has blessed you recently that you can thank? What verse can you share with them? How might God use it?*