

Core Leader as Shepherd Encouraging Your Core Members

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ~1Thessalonians 5:11-15

Compliment them when they are succeeding;

If they have a thoughtful answer or share something personal - Thank them!

If they simply arrive (not necessarily on time) and participate - Let them know that you noticed, "We're glad you're here!"

Did they do the entire lesson? Affirm their efforts!

Did anyone know some/all of the memory verse? Celebrate!

Lift up and challenge those who are struggling;

Remind the anxious or timid of God's promises of equipping them. (Phil 1:6)

As their leader try the memory verse even when you may not have it completely memorized. Show them that it is Ok to stumble - it is a part of the learning process.

Challenge your group to take advantage of the entire study.

Questions:

1. Who in your life has been a great source of encouragement and how did that affect you?

2. As we can see above, encouragement comes in many different forms and should be displayed towards all types of people. What type of person do you find most difficult to be encouraging towards?

3. What can you remember when faced with a challenging person to encourage?

4. Do you have one of those challenging people in your group? Take time to pray about each of your core members. Ask God to show you who might need encouragement this week and how to do that. Let your LD group know next time how God answered your prayer!