



# THE WAYS

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**ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE.** Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

1. Who is one person you know who embodies this? What are they like?

**READ Hebrews 10:19-25**

1. How does encouragement help us hold onto our faith?
2. What should we encourage each other with?
3. How is meeting together like we are doing now facilitate encouragement?
4. What encouragement do you most want to hear?

**Scenario:** If you're being honest, you're drained. Between everything you do at work and home, it feels like you're constantly running, and nothing you do gets noticed. That week at church, it feels like the worship is off, the sermon is lacking, and Sunday School was a waste of time.

1. How does your emotional state affect your ability to encourage others?
2. Think through a normal Sunday morning. Who else might need encouragement just as much as you?
3. How can you balance encouraging other people but also being encouraged yourself?

The church is the place we come to be reminded of who we are, children of God. In a world where we can be bombarded by how our parenting, our bodies, our work ethic, or our lawn care skills are not good enough, our church gatherings need all the more to be places of encouragement. You have the words to speak to those around you, to tell them who they are, and who you see them becoming. Look to *Always Encourage and Celebrate* one another.

**PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray that God would show you places where you can offer encouragement to those around you.)

## DAILY Devotional

**MONDAY:** *READ:* Heb 3:13. *THINK:* Is today “today?” Yes? Then encourage one another. Encouragement has a way of keeping bitterness, selfish-centeredness, and self-deprecation at bay. Sin tells you lies about who you are and what you deserve. When we encourage one another we counter those lies with the truth. *PRAY:* that the Spirit would reveal the lies sin is telling you.

**TUESDAY:** *READ:* 1 Thess 1:3+4. *THINK:* Paul begins his letter with encouragement. Before there is any teaching or rebuking, there is an encouragement. We can be quick to spot fault and find it more difficult to find reasons to encourage and celebrate. Before you find fault today, look for what is good and call it out. *PRAY:* the Spirit would convict you for how you fault find.

**WEDNESDAY:** *READ:* 1 Cor 12:22-24. *THINK:* It's easy to encourage those that seem most successful, but it is those who are treated without honor that are in most need of honor. Think through the people you will interact with or pass today. Who would normally receive the least honor? Find a place to Encourage and Celebrate them. *PRAY:* that the Spirit would show you who needs encouragement.

**THURSDAY:** *READ:* Deut 31:8. *THINK:* Most of the time we draw encouragement from our talents, looks, humor, or accomplishments; but the best encouragement is drawn from God. Where those others will fail, we are promised that God will never leave you nor forsake you. How is uplifting to be reminded of the faithfulness of God? *PRAY:* that the Spirit would remind you of the encouragement you can draw from Him.

**FRIDAY:** *READ:* Acts 11:22+23 *THINK:* Just as we can find encouragement in our faith, we also *need* encouragement in our faith. The world and the workweek does its best to dry up our faith. When we encourage one another to hold strong or we celebrate the insights and faithful actions of each other, we give a breath of new life to their faith. *PRAY:* that the Spirit would prompt those around you to be an encouragement to your faith.

**SATURDAY:** *READ:* Ecc. 4:9+10. *THINK:* You are not alone, and you were never meant to be. In the beginning, God made humans to be together in community. Especially when we fail or when we feel low, what a gift community is! A small word of encouragement can pick someone up who feels like they are failing. *PRAY:* that the Spirit would give you the words that others need.