Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. March 3, 2019

**Be An Encourager**

Hebrews 3:7-15

**Key Truth:** Encouragement is one of the primary ways we urge the people in our lives to pursue Christ and grow in their relationship with Him.

**Why Disciples Of Jesus Need Encouragement:**

1. Life is hard and being a committed disciple is even

 harder.

 A. As a disciple we battle sin, the flesh and the devil

 constantly.

2. God is not looking for superhero disciples, he is looking

 for faithfulness.

3. Spiritual maturity doesn’t happen in isolation it happens

 in community.

 A. Therefore we need encouragement to trust and obey

 God.

**How To Encourage One Another From The Life Of Joseph:** Acts 4:32-37, Acts 9:26-30, Acts 13:1-3, Acts 15:36-41

1. Through acts of kindness. Supporting others financially

 in their time of need.

2. With words of affirmation. Speaking up for those who

 have been rejected by the church.

3. With a ministry of presence. Walking alongside others in

 their calling and spiritual journey.

4. Seeing past someone’s failure to see their God potential.

 Standing by someone when they have disappointed

 others.

 A. Our failures don’t have to be final.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Look for opportunities to encourage someone this week.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What do you consider to be the goal or purpose of encouragement? Can you describe a time in your life when someone encouraged you?

How do you generally prefer to receive encouragement—through words or through actions? How do you tend to give encouragement?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11: What is one of the goals of encouragement, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11? What does the opposite of that look like?

Read Hebrews 10:24: What added benefits of encouragement do we read about in Hebrews 10:24? Why is meeting together an important component in the life of a disciple? Why does hardship and suffering tend to move others away from the fellowship with other Christians?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14: What does it mean to be fainthearted? How can we come alongside someone who discouraged in their spiritual journey?

Romans 15:1-7: What does Paul say we have an obligation to do for one another? How does the Scriptures encourage us during tough times? If God is a God of encouragement (vs. 5) how much more should we be people of encouragement?

How does encouragement through genuine love affect a community of believers like our group?

What is the next step you need to take toward being a person who models godly encouragement?