



## Encouragement

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NIV)

Encouragement: The conscious decision to come close to someone in order to give comfort.

### 1. We encourage by reminding others of the Gospel. (Hebrews 10:19–22)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

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

### 2. We encourage by physical touch.

Mark 10:14-16 (NIV)

*When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.*

### 3. We encourage with our words.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

- Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.

- Encouragement is empowering.

### 4. The goal of encouragement is perseverance. (Hebrews 10:23)

- We encourage when we do for someone what they cannot do for themselves.

- Encouragement is specifically targeted. (Hebrews 10:24)

- Encouragers realize that the first face of encouragement gives courage while the second face of encouragement takes courage.

2 Corinthians 3:12 (NIV)

*Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.*

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV)

*See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*

- We have the opportunity and responsibility to keep someone from making a decision that he will regret for the rest of his life.

- Remember that we are not the standard, but Christ is.

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

### 5. Encouragers realize a deadline is approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)