

The Christian accepts life as one of God’s greatest gifts and lives it to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

To live a worthy life of the Lord you need to \_\_\_\_\_ external and internal forces.

Where in the Bible is it mentioned that our struggle is not against flesh and blood? \_\_\_\_\_

You need \_\_\_\_\_ which is the mental or moral strength to persevere and withstand fear, or difficulty.

Biblical encouragement can mean to “urge \_\_\_\_\_ or persuade” as used in Acts 18:27-28.

Biblical encouragement can mean to “counsel with \_\_\_\_\_” as used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, 5:9-11, 14.

Encouraging and comforting, sometimes used interchangeably, are found \_\_\_\_\_ as in 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12.

The opposite of encourage is to \_\_\_\_\_.

The season to encourage is always \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Life Group Ice Breaker**

1. Today, do you feel more encouraged, or more discouraged? Why?

### **Discussion Questions**

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
3. To you, what is one of the most encouraging verses found in the Bible? Why?
4. Was your father more of an encourager or a discourager? Explain. What impact did that leave with you?

5. In 2 Timothy 4:2 we are told to be prepared to rebuke, correct and encourage. What is the difference between each of these directives?

### Application Questions & Prayer

6. Given a choice, would you rather receive verbal encouragement or written encouragement? Why?
7. When you encourage others, do you most often speak encouragement, or write encouragement as in a note or letter? Why? Who do you know that would benefit today from some encouragement from you?
8. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you to become an instrument of peace through the blessings you share.

### Scripture References

Colossians 1:10 ... live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Titus 3:8b ... be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Acts 18:27-28 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, 5:9-11, 14 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. ... <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ... <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.