

GAME CHANGER

A Walk Through the Book of 1 Thessalonians

- The Marks of an Encourager -

Ice-Breaker:

- Think about a person from your past who made a real impact on your life. Was that person an encourager? If so, in what ways did they encourage you?

Discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why is it important to encourage one another as we get closer and closer to the day Jesus returns?
2. Read I Thessalonians 2:6-11 and II Corinthians 1:4. An effective encourager is someone who truly *cares* for others.
 - Why do you suppose Paul used a “motherly” and “fatherly” analogy when addressing the Thessalonians?
 - What does II Corinthians 1:4 teach us about the purpose of trials in our lives?
3. Read I Thessalonians 2:10 and Matthew 5:19. An effective encourager seeks to live a *righteous* life.
 - How does living a righteous life encourage others?
 - Christians are imperfect people who don’t always live righteously. Some Christians struggle with letting others see their imperfections and they try to hide their faults - but then they can appear hypocritical to the outside world. How can you avoid the temptation of trying to appear more righteous than you truly are?
4. Read I Thessalonians 2:8 and I Thessalonians 2:13. An effective encourager *expresses* encouragement to others and receives encouragement well. Paul shared his very life with the Thessalonians, and he wrote them a letter to express his love and care for them.
 - Can you think of someone who has been there for you and you need to express encouragement to them? If so, write them a note of appreciation this week.
 - How well do you respond when someone encourages you? Do you receive that encouragement well or deflect it? Don’t be so insecure or proud that you can’t be encouraged by another person. A good encourager receives encouragement well.

Application:

- This week, be on the look-out and catch people doing things well. When they do, call it out and let them know how much you appreciate them.