



# Encourage One Another

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:18**



# CONTENTS

## **WELCOME:**

**Fixing Our Focus ..... 1**

## **WORSHIP:**

**Adoring Our God ..... 1**

## **WORD & WALK:**

**Understanding & Applying the Word ..... 2**

## STUDY GUIDE • ONE ANOTHER SERIES

Encourage One Another • 1 Thessalonians 4:18

### WELCOME:

## Fixing Our Focus

### Suggested icebreaker:

Provide each GG member with a small piece of paper and a pen. Ask everyone to write down a single encouraging Bible verse or phrase that has personally impacted them recently. Fold the paper to keep the verse private. On your cue, they will exchange their folded papers with someone else. After the exchange, participants will open the paper they currently hold and read the verse out loud to the group. Ask them to briefly reflect on how that verse or phrase could be an encouragement either to them or to someone else.

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### WORSHIP:

## Adoring Our God

### Suggested song:

- [Blest Be the Tie That Binds](#)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### LESSON AIM

1. GG members will be assured of their eternal destiny.
2. GG members will live their lives in anticipation of Christ's return.
3. GG members will encourage fellow believers while awaiting Christ's return.

### INTRODUCTION

Believers will face tribulation while they are here in the world (John 16:33). But with Christ's work on the cross, he placed all believers in his body (1 Corinthians 12:13) so that they may support and encourage one another while they are still here on earth. How can they encourage one another? Here are some encouragements we find in the scriptures.

### **Believers have the hope of being reunited with dead loved ones at Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

Paul wrote this portion of scripture in response to the question of the believers at Thessalonica who asked him about their loved ones who had passed away. He encouraged them that those in Christ who have gone ahead will not miss Christ's return for Christ will bring ALL believers, whether dead or alive, to himself, and they will spend eternity together.

1. What does Paul seek to inform the believers about?
2. What did Paul reveal will happen during Christ's second coming? What will happen to believers - those who have died and those who remain alive? (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
3. What will happen after they meet Jesus Christ in the air?
4. How can believers encourage one another with these truths?

### Application

You may be uncertain about many things in the future, but one thing you can be certain of is your eternal destiny with Jesus Christ. Think of one person whom you can encourage with this truth this coming week. Pray that God will grant you opportunities to be an encouragement to them.

### **Believers are to encourage one another while awaiting Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)**

While believers have the hope that Christ will one day return, they do not know exactly when this will happen. Christ can return at any time. Because of this, believers should keep encouraging one another as they wait for his return.

1. How did Paul describe Christ's return? What did he mean by it?
2. How are believers different from the rest of the world with regard to the return of Christ?

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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3. What are believers to do while waiting? (cf. Ephesians 6:10-18)
4. What encouragement did Paul give regarding the believer's destiny? How are believers, in turn, to encourage one another?

### Application

Believers live their lives in the present in anticipation of what awaits them in eternity. There is a focus both on the here and now as well as the hope of the future. How can you keep yourself from being so distracted by the present that you lose your focus on the future?

### Believers mutually encourage one another in the church gathering (1 Thessalonians 5:12-24)

Believers cannot mutually encourage one another when they are isolated from each other. That is why Christ instituted the church, both the universal church and the local church, so believers can gather together to worship God and to edify and encourage one another.

1. What attitudes should believers have toward their spiritual leaders?
2. How should believers behave toward each other? (cf. Hebrews 10:25)
3. What practices should believers develop in their spiritual walk?
4. Who is the one who sanctifies believers and makes them blameless?

### Application

Living a righteous life pleasing to God may seem an impossible task, but we have a supernatural God who empowers us to accomplish it. How can you be a source of encouragement to your church family (e.g. church leaders, peers, those whom you lead spiritually)?

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### PRAYER ITEM

Father, thank you for redeeming us and adopting us as your children. Because of this, we are assured of our hope that we will be with you for eternity. I pray that while we await the return of your son, Jesus Christ, we may be steadfast in the faith. May we continue to fellowship with you and fellow believers as we gather together in the local church to worship you and to encourage and support one another through life's tribulations. Amen. ■



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