

The Encouragement Bible Study

Encourage: *To give courage, hope, or confidence; to embolden; hearten.*

There are many ways that people are discouraged in life. The Bible refers to people who were given a gift from God to encourage others. We usually like to be around this type of people. Sometimes there is no one to encourage us. The Bible gives us ways that we can be encouraged when there is no other person around.

1. Sometimes people are encouraged in wrong ways. This leads ultimately to discouragement and much harm. Consider what the Bible has to say about the ways in which people are not to be encouraged or how they become discouraged.
 - a. According to Psalm 64:5-8 what are some ways that people encourage each other wrongly? _____

Why is this the case? _____
What does God promise to do to those who practice this evil? _____

 - b. According to Psalm 73:2-3 what is something that people sometimes enter into and become discouraged? _____
 - c. According to Proverbs 13:12 what brings discouragement to people? _____

2. There are certain times when encouragement is especially difficult.
 - a. According to Philippians 1:14 what was the condition of Paul and how did that help to encourage others in their faith? _____

 - b. According to 1 Thessalonians 3:7 what was the condition of those who were being encouraged? _____
What was bringing them encouragement? _____
 - c. According to Hebrews 12:5-6 what should give us a special reason to be encouraged even when we don't feel like it? _____

3. We need to look at specific ways that the Bible challenges us to encourage others or ourselves.
 - a. According to Romans 12:8 what is a special gift that God has given to some people? _____
If a person has this gift what are they to do with it? _____
Do you think you have this gift? _____
 - b. According to Romans 15:4 what are some sources of encouragement for us? _____
 - c. According to Romans 14:3 what brings encouragement to people? _____

- d. According to Ephesians 4:29-32 what are some things we need to get rid of if we are to be an encouragement to ourselves and to others? _____

 What are some things we need to practice? _____

- e. According to Philippians 2:1 what should be a source of encouragement for people? _____
- f. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 what are at least four things that are to be an encouragement for us? _____

- g. According to Titus 1:9 what must there be in someone in order for him to be an effective encouragement to others? _____

- h. According to Philemon 1:7 what gave great encouragement and hope and why? _____
- i. According to Hebrews 3:13 how often should we be encouraging each other? _____

4. The Bible gives some specific ways in which encouragement happens.

- a. According to Deuteronomy 31:6 why can we be encouraged in our daily lives? _____
- b. According to Isaiah 41:10-13 in what should we be encouraged and how will this help to encourage others? _____

- c. According to Matthew 10:30-31 why should we be encouraged even if circumstances are against us? _____
- d. According to Acts 14:22 what is one important thing in which to encourage people so they will remain encouraged? _____
- e. According to Romans 1:11-12 what is an encouragement to other people who have believed in Jesus? _____
 When we are discouraged who should we try to be around? _____
- f. According to Philippians 4:8-9 what are eight things we should think about that will bring encouragement to us? _____

 What must we do with the things we have learned about Jesus and his ways? _____
- g. According to Colossians 2:2-3 what brings encouragement to people? _____
- h. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 what are six things that we can do to encourage people? _____

- i. According to Hebrews 10:25 what should people do so that they can continually encourage each other? _____

What do people usually do when they get discouraged? _____
_____.