



INCLUDE (WEEK 1) SMALL GROUPS—ENCOURAGEMENT

Purpose: To discuss the presence of criticism in the school and the need for encouragement.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Refreshments

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
 - Inspire guest speaker
 - Invest week outreach
 - Outreach assignments
4. Icebreaker: "Encourager"
5. Discussion
6. Biblical support and application
7. Prayer/dismiss



ICEBREAKER: "ENCOURAGER"

Have everyone sit in a circle and say one thing of encouragement about someone else in the circle. Try to keep comments brief and directed toward different individuals and not the same person every time.

DISCUSSION:

Divide the members into groups of three or five and ask them to discuss the following questions. You may want to select a facilitator for each group to keep the discussion moving. You also may wish to provide each facilitator or each group with a list of the questions and comments to be discussed.

1. What do you see encouragement to be?
 - Listening to those who are in need (Psalm 10:17).
 - Catching people doing positive and good things and expressing your appreciation of that (Acts 11:23).
2. Do you think everyone needs encouragement or do you think only those who are too weak to make it on their own need it?
 - Those who are working to make you a better person, such as parents, teachers, and friends.
 - Those who are often forgotten or oppressed (Isaiah 1:17).
3. Do you think there are students in this school who are often seen as outcasts or are forgotten?



4. How can students in your school better encourage other students and avoid having outcasts?
 - Sit with those who are left out at lunch or invite them to sit with you.
 - Don't be afraid to talk with students who are different from you.
 - Encourage people when you see them do something positive that they are good at.
5. What are you going to do to be a better encourager?
 - Keep your eyes open for those around you who need encouragement.
 - Encourage your parents, teachers, friends, and, yes, even your enemies.
6. Pray that God will open your eyes to help you become a better encourager.





INSPIRE (WEEK 2) GUEST SPEAKER—ENCOURAGEMENT

Purpose: To inspire the club members to be encouragers through the teaching of a guest speaker.

BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Invite the speaker at least two weeks in advance.
- Inform the speaker of the topic, the time allotted as well as the time and location of the meeting.
- Select a student to meet the speaker somewhere, possibly the front desk or office at the office, to take him/her to the meeting room.
- Contact the speaker a day or two before the meeting to reconfirm the appointment.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A speaker in relation to the topic: A Christian leader known as an encourager, such as a businessperson, teacher, youth leader or a pastor.
- Refreshments

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
 - Invest week outreach event
 - Follow-up on or assign outreach assignments
4. Guest speaker
5. Prayer/dismiss

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- If time allows, a human video or short drama based on encouragement can be effective.
- Send a thank you card to the speaker.





INVOLVE (WEEK 3) STUDENT SPEAKERS—ENCOURAGEMENT

Purpose: To share the importance of encouraging.

BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Ask two or three students to be prepared to speak using the outline on the next page or develop an outline of their own that features the subject, "How encouragement has changed my life and the life of those I have encouraged."
- If students develop their own outlines, you may want to review them before the meeting just to ensure everyone is focusing on different areas of encouragement.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Refreshments

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
 - Invest week outreach event
 - Follow up on or assign outreach assignments
 - Other
4. Introduce student speaker
5. Discussion
6. Prayer/dismiss



SUGGESTED STUDENT SPEAKER OUTLINE

Being an Encourager

Text: Colossians 4:7-8

- I. Who should encourage?
 - A. We all should be encouragers (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 - B. God has sent us to this place to be a light. One great way to be a light is by being an encourager (Matthew 5:14-16).
- II. How can we encourage?
 - A. Be positive (Hebrews 12:4-6).
 1. Know that we must keep positive in all situations.
 2. As you keep a positive attitude, you will be better able to encourage rather than criticize.
 - B. Be aware of opportunities to encourage someone.



III. When should we encourage?

A. All the time (2 Timothy 4:2).

1. As we are better aware, we will see the opportunities God gives us to encourage.
2. We will also be seen as more of a reflection of Christ.

B. Look for those who are in need of encouragement.

1. Encourage those who may not gain you popularity, but could go a long way in being a witness to them.
2. Encourage those who maybe are always giving encouragement but rarely receive encouragement, such as parents, teachers, administrators, friends and pastors.

SUGGESTION:

- Give everyone note cards and ask them to write down five people they know who need encouragement.



INVEST (WEEK 4) OUTREACH EVENT—ENCOURAGEMENT

Purpose: To invest the Message of hope, Jesus Christ, in your friends and on your campus.

BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Think of creative things you can do to get students to want to come to the event.
- Secure the speaker at least two weeks in advance.
- Give your speaker the following guidelines as he or she prepares:
 1. Be prepared to ask the students to respond to the message and receive Christ as their Savior and Lord.
 2. Speak confidently; clearly and energetically tell everyone about Jesus, then lead those who are willing in a prayer of repentance and faith.
 3. Be mindful of the event's purpose. Response cards will be given out.
 4. This should not be a story of one's church, but of the Lord who wants a relationship everyone.
 5. Don't use religious terms (like "sanctified" or "redeemed"); visitors who have never been to church do not understand the lingo.
 6. Stay away from abstract, hard-to-define concepts; stick to the practical. What is applicable?
 7. Allow enough time at the end to pass out and collect response cards.
- Select members to be responsible for distributing and collecting response cards. Give them clear instruction as to when and how this should happen.
- Plan for effective follow-up. Students who bring friends should follow up with them concerning a commitment to Jesus, to answer questions, involve them in a local church and bring them back next week for Include small groups.



YOU WILL NEED:

- Food
- Ask a church to sponsor the cost as an evangelistic investment.
- Response cards and pens
- Slips of Paper and balloons for Icebreaker

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance



3. Announcements
4. Icebreaker
5. Introduce student speaker
6. Student testimony/gospel presentation
7. Invitation, prayer, response cards
8. Dismiss/initial follow-up

ICEBREAKER:

Have everyone sit in a circle (or to break up into three or four circles). Then have them write on a slip of paper one thing that they are proud of or good at. Next, have them place the slip of paper in separate balloons. After this, mix up the balloons in the middle, and pass out one balloon to every person. Then go around and have each person pop a balloon and have the group guess who belongs to that statement.

SUGGESTED SPEAKER OUTLINE:

- I. Give an example of when encouragement made a difference in your life.
- II. The purpose of encouragement is to better the lives of those around you.
In 2 Thessalonians 2:14-17, Paul encourages the church to “stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you” so that the church “might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NIV).
- III. What was Jesus’ eternal encouragement?
 - A. His eternal encouragement was that there is hope.
 - B. No matter how difficult the situation, we can know that Jesus still loves us.
 - C. We realize we’ve all messed up at one point or another.
 - D. Because of these mistakes we have made, or wrong things we have done, there is punishment.
 - E. The Bible says that this punishment is death. “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23, NIV).
 - F. The good news, or encouragement, for us is that Jesus came to this earth and paid that price with His life. He died in our place.
 1. “...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23, NIV).
 2. Jesus gave us the gift of His life; all we must do is accept His free gift of forgiveness.

SUGGESTION:

At this point, give an invitation for those who are in need of Christ’s encouragement to either raise a hand or in some way communicate this to you or to one of your leaders.