

ONE ANOTHER

SERVE

Week Four | Accept One Another | 07.18-19.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: In the fast pace of our culture, we often find ourselves giving encouragement that lacks substance and hope. But when we give biblical encouragement, what we find is that the substance is always the gospel, and the hope is grounded in Jesus.

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What's your go-to unhealthy snack?
- Digging Deeper: What's on your bucket list? If you got to the end of your life without checking it off, would it make a difference? What do you want to see God do that will require a habit of encouraging one another?

» Observation | Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-15 (15 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | **Real encouragement requires real hope.** (15 minutes)

- Have you ever experienced weak/cotton candy encouragement? Share about your experience and why it wasn't helpful.
- What types of things do we put our hope in? Why do you think we are settling with hope in those things rather than in Jesus?

» Reactive Encouragement | Reference 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (15 minutes)

- Paul is speaking to people who are afraid and uncertain. What in your life brings you to a low place where you need encouragement?
- In what ways were Paul's words encouraging to the Thessalonians church? What lessons can we learn from the way Paul encouraged them?

» Proactive Encouragement | Reference 1 Thessalonians 5:1-15 (15 minutes)

- Are you better at proactive or reactive encouragement? What would it take to grow in the one you're not as good at?
- Describe a time when someone was able to encourage you in a meaningful way? What made it more effective?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- Who are you partnered with to encourage one another? If you aren't currently partnered with anyone, who would be a good partner for you? Have a conversation with them this week about what it would look like to partner with you and why it matters.
- Think about where you are settling for hope in something other than Jesus. Spend some time this week leaning in and redirecting your focus from where it is back to Jesus by talking to Him about it, and sharing with someone you know can encourage you.
- Close by praying for each other to take some time this week to consider what it would be like to actually encourage one another.