

## TAKING IT HOME

- 1. Encourage the Encourager.** Think of one person in your life who has been an encourager for you. Take time this week to thank that person through a phone call, card or letter, or getting together. In the space below, write down who you will thank and how you will thank them.
  
- 2. Encouraging the Discouraged.** Think of someone you know who is currently dealing with discouragement in their life. What can you do this week to encourage them? (A card or letter, doing something for them, taking them a meal, just being with them, etc.) In the space below, write down who you will encourage and how you will encourage them.

## NEXT STEPS

Which of these NEXT STEPS will you take in order to be encouraged in your faith and be an encouragement to others?

- Do the insert *Deepening Your Walk with God*.
- Read 1 John in one sitting at least once (weekly if possible).
- Commit to Biblical living...no matter what.
- Live out love...because God loved us first.
- Share the light of Christ with someone in darkness.
- Trust in Christ alone for eternal life.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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- ☞
- ☞
- ☞

## Why I Write

*<sup>12</sup>I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. <sup>13</sup>I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup>I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

1 John 2:12-14 (NIV84)

## Be Encouraged. Be an Encourager.

Everyone needs encouragement. Not everyone has the same encouragement needs.

- Encourage new believers in their forgiveness of sin and relationship with God.
- Encourage young believers to overcome the evil one by being strong through God's Word.
- Encourage mature believers to remember their enduring relationship with God.

Direction not balanced with encouragement results in condemnation.

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# Deepening Your Walk with God

For the week of June 5, 2016

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## **QUICK REVIEW**

Looking back at the Taking It Home section and Next Steps from last week, how did last week's sermon cause you to live differently?

## **MY STORY**

1. Do you think that people far from God generally think of Christianity as an encouraging or discouraging religion? Why?

2. As you have engaged with the Church, how have you found it to be a place of encouragement or discouragement?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

*Take a few moments to ask God to open your heart to the beauty of His revealed Word and provide understanding through His Spirit.*

**1. Encouragement.** Read the following verses that speak of encouraging one another:

*Romans 1:11-12*

*Colossians 2:1-3*

*1 Thessalonians 4:18*

*1 Thessalonians 5:14*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

Now read through these again slowly. Is there one of these five selections that you find yourself more drawn to or challenged by? Why do you think you are you drawn to this one over the others?

- 2. Digging in.** Take the verse that you were most drawn to and do the following. Write down any insights or questions in the space below.
- Read it in a couple of different translations.
  - Read enough verses before and after it to understand its context.
  - Read it in your favorite translation enough times to emphasize a different significant word each time.

- Write one verse out on an index card and try to memorize it over the next week, continuing to meditate on it as you do.

- 3. Be Encouraged.** Who in your life has been an encourager to you? What have they done, what have they said, or how have they acted that has brought you encouragement?

While we all have room to grow in encouragement, God has worked through most of us to encourage others. What are some ways that you have encouraged others? Does this just happen for you or do you have to be intentional about it?

- 4. Be an Encourager.** List several ways that you can encourage others around you. What similarities and what differences are there with encouraging someone who is a follower of Christ and someone who is far from God?