

TAKEAWAY

All for One

ONE ANOTHER – 1 THESSALONIANS

Sunday 27th January 2019

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday, we looked at the idea of encouraging one another, as seen in 1 Thessalonians. Encouragement could be defined as enhancing courage – it means spurring one another on and inspiring confidence. We noted that, for our purposes, there are two types of encouragement. One is 'compliment-centred' (telling someone something good about them). The other is 'Jesus-centred' (pointing to the bigger story of Jesus).

READ

1 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 1:7-8

1 Thessalonians 3:6-7

DISCUSS

1. What does Paul see in the Thessalonians that he wants to affirm?

2. How often do we give or hear this sort of encouragement as we go about life?

READ

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

DISCUSS

These 2 paragraphs both end with the command, 'Therefore encourage one another'. Paul's goal is

that we would encourage one another – but that we do so based on the things he has just said.

3. What is the 'bigger story' of Jesus found in this passage? (What are the key points?)

4. Why is this 'bigger story' encouraging?

5. How can we encourage each other with this in the day-to-day without sounding weird?

We noted on Sunday that some of the following things might inhibit how we encourage others:

We're British and speaking positively to someone is often seen as false/awkward.

We think that people don't need it. (They seem strong/positive all the time.)

It just doesn't occur to us to say anything (we might be overly focussed on ourselves).

We're jealous of someone's talents and don't want to be humble enough to acknowledge them.

We've forgotten how the bigger story of Jesus reframes everything we experience.

6. Can you see any of these in yourself?

7. Are there any other things that inhibit us?

8. What benefits do you think encouraging one another has?



9. Who do you know who could do with some encouragement right now? How could you do that, either individually or as a group?

10. What encouragements would you like God to give you at the moment? Pray for them now.

