

# Be With One Another

## Discussion Guide

Week of June 11 - **"Encourage One Another"**

**Scripture verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

**Leader Note:** Ask a group member to pray (someone who doesn't normally participate) and coach him/her on what to say. Example: "Kristin, would you please ask the Lord to open our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our understanding of His word today?"

**Opening Question:** Go around the group and share a moment when someone told you something that lifted your spirits, boosted your confidence or gave you the motivation to finish a task!

**Leader Tip:** When leading the discussion, ask the more reserved people to answer first.

### **LOOKING BACK:**

1. Last week you were challenged to look for ways to exhibit overflowing love for others. Looking back, what are some ways of "overflowing" that come to mind when it comes to showing someone else love? When you think on the challenge to love someone this way, how did you do this past week? Were you able to see/feel the difference between loving someone versus having an abundance of overflowing love? Have the group share their thoughts.

2. Were you able to take the exercise from last week (think of two ways to love people) and execute those ideas this week? Have people share their experiences of how/when they lavishly loved someone and what that looked like.

### LOOKING UP:

Ask someone to read **1 Thessalonians 5:12**. We are to honor those who lead us in the Lord's work. Honor = to regard with great respect. Take a moment to think of someone you honor who has led you to a greater walk with Jesus. (Have people share who this individual is and how they've strengthened their faith.)

Ask someone to read **Hebrews 3:13**. Why do you believe this verse instructs us to encourage one another daily? What is the significance of the daily reminder? (So none of us may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.....)

Take some time and read through 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Then ask the questions 1 and 2 below. Once you've covered the 1<sup>st</sup> two questions re-read the same passage in a different bible translation and ask questions 3 and 4.

#### **READ THE PASSAGE** **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

#### **RE-READ THE PASSAGE**

Read passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions

## **LOOKING FORWARD:**

1. What is a tangible way you can honor those who have led you in your faith walk? A phone call? A visit? A handwritten note? Make it a priority to reach out to these individuals to remind them of the impact they had on your life and encourage them to continue sharing their love with others.
2. Consider writing a note to our pastoral staff, youth leaders, worship team or any other member of the Crossroads staff that has led you to a deeper relationship with Christ. (**Small group leaders**- if you have time and notecards, take a few minutes and have everyone write a thoughtful note to an individual they wish to honor tonight.)