



Key Texts
 1 Samuel 15
 Matthew 25:14-30
 John 16:33
 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Talking through the message during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Get connected with some folks who will listen and dig into the word together.

Definitions

Discouragement is when we have no courage & no hope & no confidence that anything that we do is going to help our situation.

Encouragement is when we feel courageous & we can face our situations & we feel hopeful & confident that we can do something about our circumstance.

- Do you tend to feel powerless or empowered? What does that feel / look like to you?
- Have you noticed any link between your feeling encouraged and being encouraging, and vice versa? Why do you think this is?

Can vs Can't

- What leads to you having a spirit of "can't"?
- What are we to trust God for? What are some things that we can't trust God for?
- Look up "one another" passages in the New Testament. What do you learn from this?

Mike said "Theology is never meant to be simply intellectual information. It is meant to be lived. And it is meant to be lived in relationship."

- How do you live out what you believe (your theology)?

Read **Matthew 25:14-30**

- Which of the 3 servants do you identify with? Why?
- What is Jesus asking you do to with what he has given you? Do you understand what how God has shaped & gifted you for service, for investment in his world?
- Do you find this hard or easy? Why?

Read **1 Samuel 15**

- In the story of David and Goliath, why was David able to bring down Goliath? What had equipped him to do this?

Next Steps:

- Reflect on the difficult things in your life. Not to re-live them or bemoan the fact that they happened, but to ask the question, how has God gifted me, equipped me because of this?
- We are reading the Psalms. This week we are in **Psalms 144-148**. Ask, "What do I notice about encouragement in these passages?"

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 2019