

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
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Detroit, Michigan 48208
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Lesson 8: Cheerleading¹

Goal: ***Build Authentic Relationships by Reestablishing the Art of “One Anothering.”***

Objective: ***Provide Scriptural support for being Cheerleaders of God’s Love and Comfort***

Overview:

We serve an awesome God, who chooses to manifest Himself in the lives of people to encourage and strengthen us. As we seek to obey His Word and grow in relationship with Him we become equipped to encourage others by the power of the Holy Spirit. “Encouraging one another, comforting one another, and stimulating one another to love and good deeds are three ways we cheer on believers around us.”² This is what Jacobsen refers to as ‘*cheerleading*’. Encouragement is the kind of expression that helps someone want to be a better Christian, even when life is rough.³ Just telling another person how much they have touched our lives by something they said or did serves as a powerful encourager.

To encourage is to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope. Every church and home needs a Barnabus who had a reputation as an encourager. In Acts 11:23, he encouraged new converts to continue with the Lord. Are we encouraging our new members? Are we encouraging our long-standing members to remain faithful and not grow weary in well-doing? What about those who work so hard in the church for us, such as our pastor, deacons, deaconesses, trustees, church staff, ministry leaders, and teachers? We need to be *cheerleaders* in our homes. Our spouses and family members need to be cheered on for their faithfulness and all they contribute to our homes and well-being. Children need encouragement to be successful in school, attend church and Sunday school, develop good character, responsibility, and to live godly lives in a decadent society. Nothing encourages more than the Word of God. It strengthens and reassures. It brings peace, comfort, trust, and hope. Speak the Word. Let us not fall down on building one another up.

“Encourage one another daily” (Hebrews 3:13)

Daily encouragement enables us to face any difficulty in life. It is to be regarded as a necessity especially in these very difficult economic and stressful times. People may be hurting more deeply than we know. Our relationship with Christ provides unique resources to overturn despair and spiritually strengthen others. We can comfort one another with prayer, God’s Word, our presence, and listening with understanding. While we can cheer people in a variety of ways to include laughter, our testimonies can draw others closer to God. Faithful believers and everyone

¹ Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of “one anothering”*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). Print.

² Ibid, 90

³ Larry Crab and Dan Allender. *Encouragement: the Key to Caring*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

throughout the world need to hear about the ways God still manifests Himself through people of faith.

The more time we spend with the Lord and in His Word the more equipped we become as *cheerleaders* for the body of Christ. As a result, we are likely to become more sensitive to the move of God in our lives. When God provides opportunities to bring cheer to others, we need to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to encourage another.

“Comfort one another.” (1 Thessalonians 4:18 NASB)

“Therefore we also since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1)

People need to be offered prayers and words of encouragement from Scripture to strengthen them during life’s trials and major challenges. Certain intended expressions of cheer do not work for example the surface expression of “Just trust God,” rarely works as a *heartfelt* expression to encourage another person. People need to feel sincere and genuine expressions of encouragement. Trying to understand the other person’s situation and feelings with a listening and compassionate ‘ear’ is beneficial. Being sensitive to the fear, sadness, confusion, or anger he or she is experiencing helps. Then, they may be receptive to the benefits of prayer which can serve as a powerful encourager knowing that the problem is being presented to our all-powerful God for whom all things are possible. One might say; *“I would like to pray for you right now and I look forward to your testimony about the way our Lord will carry you through this situation.”*

Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*

“Stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24 NASB)

Discussion Point #1

How can *cheerleading* allow us to be effective and genuine in our ability to bring others closer to the Lord?

God equips us with wisdom, knowledge, joyful experiences, humor, and personal testimonies to share with people who can be drawn to receive His love, grace, mercy, and salvation.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:12-14 NKJV)

Discussion Point #2

How does prayer for others and knowledge of Scripture enable us as *cheerleaders* to encourage, comfort and stimulate others to love and good deeds?

We grow in assurance of God’s will through our prayers, church attendance, bible studies, and knowledge of Scripture which secures our faith and confidence in God.

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.’” (Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT)

Biblical Exercise:

As you Identify, Pray, Witness and Invite (IPWI) people to experience a closer relationship with God, share an encouraging testimony that will enable them focus on God’s working.

Monthly Biblical Lessons

Month	Year	Monthly Biblical Lessons
October	2011	<i>Introduction to Authentic Relationships</i>
November	2011	<i>Loving Others Like God Loves You</i>
December	2011	<i>A Soft Place to Fall</i>
January	2012	<i>It’s Not All About You</i>
February	2012	<i>Initial Contact</i>
March	2012	<i>Sharing God’s Kindness</i>
April	2012	<i>Lightening the Load</i>
May	2012	<i>Cheerleading</i>