**Encouraging one another – Service series August 2020**

**Small group questions**

*Please note: These notes are just to help stimulate your study and discussion- please use, amend or ignore as you feel works for your group.*

Possible starter questions:

* Are you a glass half full or a glass half empty person? Why do you think that is? What impact does it have on you and on those around you?
* What is the most discouraging thing anyone has said to you? How did that impact you or how did you respond? *(Be sensitive here to any who have been deeply wounded by discouragements from the past.)*

Study questions:

Look up the following verses about encouragement: 1 Thess 4:17-18; 1 Thess 5:10-11; Heb 3:13-14; Heb 10: 23-25; Romans 15: 4-6.

1. What do these verses suggest is the outcome of encouragement?
2. How is the encouragement talked about here different from what society generally sees an encouraging?
3. How might your encouraging look different if you focus on the journey of faith rather than focus on encouragement per se?
4. When on earth, Jesus directly commanded his followers to love others and to forgive each other, but I could find no record of Him directly telling them to encourage each other. Why might this be?
5. Share a time when you were encouraged by someone in your faith- why was it encouraging? What can you learn from that about how you might encourage others?
6. In Romans 12:8 Paul lists encouragement as one of the gifts of the Spirit. How does that fit in with the call for each of us to encourage each other?
7. Which do you find easier- to give or receive encouragement? Why?
8. How might you as a group help each other grow more like Jesus?
9. Ultimately, encouragement comes from God- Romans 15:5-6. How can this help you understand the call to encourage others?

Prayer ideas:

Think about the people you know- who most needs encouraging right now and in what way? Can you pray in the group for them and for the opportunity to encourage them?

How would you like your group to encourage you? If you feel you can, share that with your group and pray for each other.