03 • Our Church Family

Creation is a powerful witness to the "eternal power" of God and the Bible reveals the will of God, but what a blessing to have people in our lives who are serving God and want to help us along the way.

How Does God COMMUNICATE With Us?
Building Blocks

> Therefore encourage _____ _____ with these words. (1 Thes 4:18)

> Therefore encourage one another and _____ one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thes 5:11)

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 is a great example of how God helps us grow through the blessing of our church family.

> We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and _____ you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the _____, encourage the _____, help the _____, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

How does God communicate with us? Through the examples of "older men" and "older women" who show us by their lives what it looks like to believe and live by "sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1-8).

"One another" fills the pages of the New Testament:

- Love
- Live in harmony with
- Welcome
- Instruct
- Greet
- Comfort
- Serve
- Bear with
- Be kind to
- Submit to
- Admonish
- Encourage
- Build up
- Exhort
- Stir up
- Pray for
- Show hospitality to

For Class & Family Discussion:

‣ In your own words, what does it mean to "encourage" someone?

‣ Why would we allow others to "admonish" (*instruct*, *warn*) us? Why can't it just be me and my own personal relationship with God?

‣ Let's think through the action words attached by the Holy Spirit to what different people need at different times:

- **Admonish** the idle?
- **Encourage** the fainthearted?
- **Help** the weak?

‣ Why do younger men and women need the examples and teaching of older men and women?

‣ Do older men and women need younger men and women? If so, in what ways?

‣ What happens when we neglect the "one another" directions in Scripture?

‣ What does 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 add to the overall point of this lesson?