

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 67: WAYS TO ENCOURAGE THOSE IN MY CLASS**

OUTLINE BY GARY HARDIN

**Everyone** needs encouragement. Some members of your class feel discouraged, stressed, anxious, unworthy, unlovable, or completely overwhelmed by the circumstances of their lives. You can make a difference in **one moment** if you will honestly and sincerely encourage them. And don't forget to encourage your teacher, as well.

Here are some ways to give encouragement to those in your class.

1. **Speak** your encouragement. People often find themselves in difficult situations. Make a habit of expressing your verbal encouragement to those who are in a tough place. The Bible says, "A word aptly spoke is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).
2. **Pray** your encouragement. When you learn of a need in a class member's life, make a commitment to yourself to pray for him or her. We have no idea how the Holy Spirit will use our prayers of intercession to make life easier for those we pray for.
3. **Write** your encouragement. Purchase a supply of note cards. Make a habit of writing notes of encouragement to those in your class who need a lift in their lives. Write a note of appreciation to your teacher for the time and effort given to lead your class.
4. **Put feet** to your encouragement. Mow the grass for a sick class member. Purchase groceries for a class member having trouble making ends meet. Offer to baby sit for a fellow class member who needs a break from the kids.
5. **Cyberspace** your encouragement. Send encouraging emails and encouraging text messages to class members. Are you a Facebook friend with some of your class members? Use your Facebook posts as an opportunity to encourage them. If you come across an Internet article you feel is timely for someone, make a copy of the article for that person.
6. **Celebrate** your encouragement. Class fellowships, socials, potlucks, and parties provide fun opportunities for getting to know people better. The relationships built at these kinds of gatherings provide open doors for ministry and encouragement.
7. **Target** your encouragement. A prospect or a person who attends your class for the first time quite naturally may be nervous about coming to Sunday School. Be especially sensitive to be encouraging toward these folks.

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