

We Are Encouragers

Message 04 of the series: "Half Full"

1. Engage Your HOPE – Know Your WHO

Life Application: If your gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

2. Engage Your PURPOSE – Know Your WHY And Your WHAT

Life Application: When you know your "why," your "what" becomes more impactful because you are walking in your purpose.

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:19-25 (NIV)

3. Engage Your CHURCH – Know Your HOW

Life Application: God created us to do life together.

"Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

4. Engage Your COMMUNITY – Know Your WHERE

Life Application: You are the person God is preparing as the answer to someone's prayers.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

5. Engage Your HEART – Know Your SAVIOR

Life Application: People have chosen heaven over hell, but not many have chosen heaven over earth.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)

Connect Group Questions

1. Without some effect on your life, hope in God is invisible and brings no public glory to God's power, goodness, faithfulness, and trustworthiness. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How and where can you make your hope visible this week?
2. We, every one of us in Christ, have full access to God! We live to help others grow in their relationship with God to spur them on toward love and good works. The word "consider" means to ponder, observe or study. To spur on means to excite to action. Who are the people God has placed in your life to observe and think about? How will you spur them on this week?
3. Scripture tells us to "not give up meeting together." What are the benefits of meeting together as believers that we cannot get on our own? What typically tempts you to give up "meeting together"? Who can you encourage this week to return to Sunday worship, your connect group, or simply just meeting together one-on-one?
4. What is going on in the world around you that breaks your heart? How can you connect with other people that are meeting that need?
5. Discuss the life application phrase, "people have chosen heaven over hell, but not many have chosen heaven over earth." How do we make sure our hearts stay engaged and that we don't lose focus on our purpose?