



Ministry of Encouragement



If you are very busy but want to serve the Lord in your church and community, a wonderful ministry is *encouragement*. Life is stressful and people are burnt out, but you can make a difference in people's lives by encouraging them. Here are some ideas to help you.

Be optimistic. You don't have to fake it or be weird, but in your conversations with people, try to purposely be positive. Try to find the good in stressful situations. When a conversation turns negative, be the one to remind others that God works all things together for good.

Use your words. Surely you have noticed that 20% of the people do 80% of the ministry at your church. They do it because they love the Lord and love your church. You may not have the ability to sing or the calling to preach, but you can tell them they are doing a great job. Regular words of encouragement are the fuel that can keep someone from quitting.

Send notes. You can encourage people every week with cards, emails, or text messages telling that you appreciate them and are praying for them. Buy a box of cards and some stamps and make a goal of sending one encouraging note every Monday. Or make a list of people in your life and send one text a day to someone. Your words of encouragement can help more than you realize.

Publicly praise. There are situations where someone deserves or needs to be praised publicly. Your words may give them the emotional boost to do their best work again. When appropriate, say something at church or on social media.

Give small thank you gifts. If you want to be an encourager, pay attention to the things people enjoy. It may be something like their favorite candy or coffee. Little things done on purpose can bring a smile.

Be a trusted listener. Many people need someone to talk to. You don't have to give great advice, but you can be an understanding confidant. As the encourager at work, school, or church, learn to really listen to people when they share something with you. Never gossip or make them feel bad for sharing.

Pray for them. We have our different habits of prayer in private, with family, and at church. If you want to have an encouragement



ministry, listen to people's prayer requests, pray for them, let them know you are praying, and check with them about it later. There may be some situations where they need your prayers immediately. That is okay. Stop what you are doing, ask them if you can pray with them, and pray a short but meaningful prayer right away. You will feel uncomfortable doing this, but the person will remember that you care for them and you trust God to help them.

We all need more encouragement in life. God can use you to breathe life into His servants as you encourage them.