

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

SITUATION #1: Your friend learns her child has a life-threatening disease. She has two other children and her husband is an unbeliever. She lives three hours away from you.

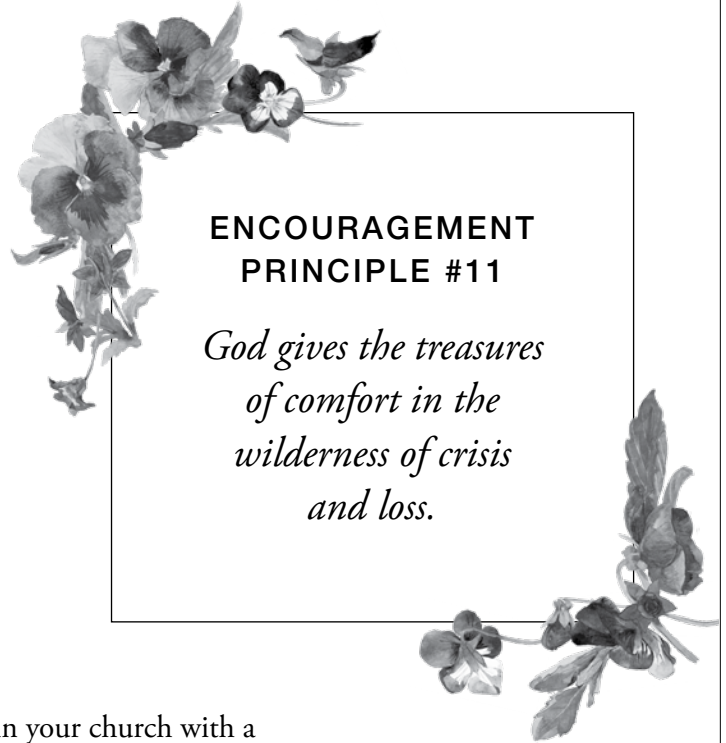
SITUATION #2: Your sister's husband committed adultery but is repentant. Both are believers. You never got along with her husband.

SITUATION #3: Your mother's long-term illness keeps her housebound. You are an only child and live close by. She is not a Christian and is not pleasant to be around.

SITUATION #4: Your neighbor's husband loses his job. They just started attending your church but are not believers. Your relationship is casual.

SITUATION #5: Doctors diagnose a young man in your church with a terminal illness. You can't get his wife off your mind even though you don't know her very well.

SITUATION #6: A young couple in your church, whom you barely know, lose their first child to crib death. Their loss reminds you of your own grief when your brother's child died.



**ENCOURAGEMENT
PRINCIPLE #11**

*God gives the treasures
of comfort in the
wilderness of crisis
and loss.*

HEBREWS 10:19–25

1. Enter the “throne room.” Draw near to God with confidence because of what Jesus has done. Use prayer, Bible study, journaling, memorizing scripture.
2. Take the time to prayerfully consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. Listen for your “marching orders,” that is, how God wants you to respond to the time you spend in His Word and prayer.
3. Do not give up meeting together. Connecting with other believers is critical to Christian maturity. Your worship and study times with other believers are opportunities to hear and obey God's encouragement command.
4. Act on the nudges of the Holy Spirit and encourage one another continuously.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

- Watch Chapter 12 The Last Word video with Sharon Betters at www.treasuresofencouragement.org.
- Read Chapter 12 and complete Getting Focused and Staying Focused questions, noting specific scriptures and statements that grab your attention.
- Use the following to write a summary of this lesson:
 - Write a summary statement of Chapter 12.
 - List a few things from the chapter that were helpful to you.
 - How did this chapter change or inform your thinking about biblical encouragement?
 - Write a prayer based on some of the scriptures in this chapter.
 - How would you like for others to pray for you as you seek to apply the scriptures in this chapter to your life?
- Review memory work: Hebrews 10:19–25
- Keep journaling.
- Pray for and with your prayer partner. Pray together for specific people in your villages and how to offer the hope of Jesus.
- If God uses you to comfort a person in profound pain this week, come prepared to share how you knew what to do and what you did.
- Contact your leader if you are willing to share a short testimony of how God turned an ordinary act of obedience (either on your part or the part of someone else) into extraordinary results.
- Complete the Living Focused assignment for Chapter 12.
- Review Handout #1 from Chapter 9 and follow through on any Spirit-directed action. Pray about sharing with the group one action you took this week in response to our prayer time.
- Complete your “Blues Busters” assignment.
- Pray with your prayer partner and continue journaling.
- Personalize the Praying Scripture for you or someone else and record in your journal.
- Memorize Hebrews 10:19–25.

■ Bonus: Listen to the recommended Chapter 11 Help & Hope podcasts at www.treasuresofencouragement.org:



- *Loss of a Child—A Conversation with Chuck and Sharon Betters*
- *Adoption and Children with Special Needs: A Hard Calling Filled with Joy—A Conversation with Jim and Karen Weaver*



PRAYING SCRIPTURE

*For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us.
We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*

2 CHRONICLES 20:12B

