

LIFTING OTHERS UP

SCRIPTURE:

“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Jack

SONG: “When Upon Life’s Billows”

LESSON:

When I was about five years old, I remember walking out into the barn at our farm and seeing one of the most amazing displays of strength and power I had ever witnessed. My dad had been working on one of his tractors, and all of a sudden, with only one hand, I saw him lift that 15,000 pound piece of machinery completely off of the ground. That was the day I learned about hydraulic jacks. This is a tool that only requires a person to use a minimal amount of force that is transferred through the hydraulic fluid inside the jack to create a massive amount of force toward what it is lifting up. All I saw was my dad using one hand to lift a tractor. But in reality, he had learned to use a tool that actually made him stronger.

Did you know that there is a tool in the Bible that we can learn to use that makes people stronger too? It is a tool that, with some practice, can make you one of the most powerful and influential people in your family, your church, and your community. And it is one of the simplest skills you can acquire. It is called “encouragement.” The Bible tells us how powerful our tongues are (James 3:2-12). They can be used for good or for evil.

There are many times in the Bible that God’s people were discouraged by others, and because they did not continue to have faith in God, they suffered great consequences for it. In Numbers 32, ten of the twelve spies that Moses sent in as spies to the Promised Land came back with a negative report. It says, “They discouraged the sons of Israel so that they did not go into the land which the Lord had given them” (Num. 32:9). Because of this, God became angry and told them that because they didn’t trust and have faith in Him, no one over the age of 20 would be allowed to go into the land, which led to the 40 years of wandering around in the wilderness. Millions of people’s lives were drastically impacted because ten men decided to be discouragers instead of encouragers.

The apostle Paul tells us to, “encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone” (1 Thes. 5:14). Do you know why we can encourage each other, even when things get tough? “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thes. 5:9-11). No matter what happens in this life, JESUS IS COMING BACK! Why wouldn’t we encourage each other to stay strong in our faith?

PRAYER: Help us to find ways to encourage people and remind them of the hope found in Jesus Christ.

MAIN MESSAGE:

Everyone wants to live the quiet, peaceful, happy life, but there is only one problem. As long as Satan is at work, he is going to do everything he can to disrupt our lives with trials and temptations. Since this is what makes up “real life,” we have to become great encouragers to help each other through the difficult, challenging times we face in life.