

# GROUND RULES

WEEK 3 // BE AN ENCOURAGER  
AARON BEASLEY

The quality of our lives is determined by the quality of our relationships.

## GROUND RULE #3:

Be an encourager.

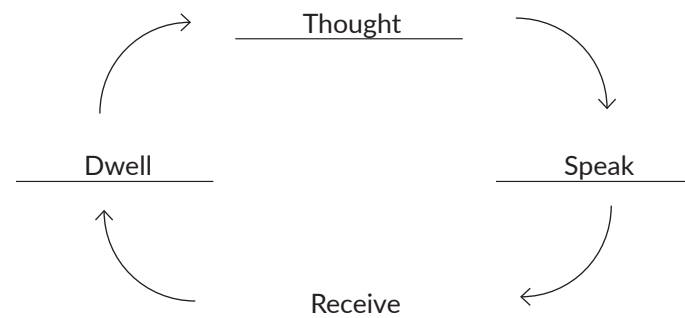
Encouragement: the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope.

*"Instruction does much, but encouragement is everything."*  
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Why is it hard to be an encourager?

Our natural tendency is to be negative.

We received information with a negativity  
bias.



Do not let any **unwholesome** talk come out of your mouths, but only what is **helpful** for **building** others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.  
*Ephesians 4:29*

How do we become an encourager?

1. Shut it.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry... *James 1:19*

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your **mouth shut**. *Proverbs 10:19*

*"Some things are better left unsaid. Which I generally realize after I have said them."* — Coffee Mug

2. Switch it.

*"Believing in negative thoughts is the single greatest obstruction to success."* — Charles F. Glassman

Instead, let the Spirit **renew** your thoughts and attitudes.  
*Ephesians 4:23*

The **tongue** has the power of **life** and **death**, and those who love it will eat its fruit. *Proverbs 18:21*

3. Say it.

*"Never let something good go unsaid."* — Craig Groeschel

Such things were **written** in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us **hope** and **encouragement** as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.  
*Romans 15:4*

How can you be an encourager?

To further explore and apply this message with your small group, visit [eclife.org/groups](http://eclife.org/groups) to access this week's group discussion questions.

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Full list of events and registration is available at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org)'s EVENTS page

### Outreach Opportunity

Fill up a quart size travel bag for those traveling on a mission trip in the upcoming months. Items such as gum, hard candy, granola bar, a card with a note of encouragement and prayer make traveling so much better. To participate, email Outreach Assistant Director, Breanne Schafer at [bschafer@eclife.org](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org).

### The 1824

Join us for an environment created specifically for young adults: 18\* to 24 years old. Each month, we gather for worship, teaching, and a chance to chat with others facing similar unique life experiences.

When: Thursday, February 20, 7:00pm

Where: Greenwood Campus Fieldhouse

*\*18-year-old attendees must be graduated seniors.*

### VERB

Designed to help 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students connect with God and with one another, each month's VERB focuses on a different theme that will help students grow in their relationship with Jesus.

When: Sunday, March 8, 6:00-7:30pm

Where: Greenwood Campus E-Café & Auditorium

### Night of Worship

Join us at Emmanuel's Greenwood Campus as we gather together to sing, worship, and celebrate as one church family. Doors open at 6:00pm. Small groups are encouraged to attend Night of Worship with their group as there will be no meeting space available that evening. Childcare is available.

When: Wednesday, March 18, 7:00-8:30pm

Where: Greenwood Campus