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# AROMA

*spreading the knowledge  
of Him everywhere*

LIVE IT!  
GROUP GUIDE

OCTOBER 25

# AROMA

## Giving Encouragement

(2 Cor 2:14-16; selected Scripture)

Live It Guides are not just a “study” we do to fill our heads with information about God. Possessing information doesn’t make us disciples. It’s what we do with it that counts! This looks like **listening, believing and living**. The purpose of this guide is to: (1) foster learning & listening with one another around God’s Word, (2) allow God’s Word to shape what we are believing and (3) encourage one another to live it out in the context of our daily lives. If you find your group not asking “believing” and “living” questions, please adjust your time to allow for this vital part of discipleship.

## Listening to God’s Word...

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (above) paying particular attention to what is emphasized.

- Why do you suppose Paul says “we/us” not “I/me”?
- What are some possible problems if the church does not emphasize the “we” enough?
- Do you think Paul means we are only the aroma together or do you think there’s individual “aromas” too?

As the early church was the aroma of Jesus together, one indispensable thing that they shared was encouragement. Read the following verses: Acts 14:21-22; 15:30-32; 16:40; 18:27; 20:1-2; Rom 1:11-12; 1 Thess 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25.

- In what ways have you thought about “encouragement” as a key element of our life together as the aroma of Jesus?
- The biblical definition of encouragement is to “walk alongside to put courage into.” If encouragement was happening regularly in the early church, what might be a few reasons why it might not happen today?

## Believing What It Says...

As we hear God speak through His Word, we must take what we are learning and consider how we see ourselves actually living our lives. Many times, we may say we believe something but in fact find that a different belief is influencing our actions. This provides an opportunity to repent and believe the Gospel.

**Are you really believing that being the Aroma of Jesus is not merely a “I/me” lifestyle but also includes “we/us”? Why or why not?**

**Are you believing that encouragement is indispensable for the church to be the church? What might cause you, or anyone, to believe differently?**

## Living it out...

Let’s put what we are hearing from God’s Word into practice...this week! We long to be a people who live an active faith, not only hearing from God, but also responding in obedience to Him!

Consider the following possible reasons why we don’t encourage others:

- Self-focused — thinking too highly of ourselves.
- Insecurity — not wanting others to succeed more than us.
- Bitterness — not wanting others to succeed, period.

Is it possible that one of these reasons is keeping you from encouraging someone?

Consider the following reasons for why we should encourage others:

- It helps one another fight discouragement — a “remember God is always leading us” mentality.
- It motivates one another to keep being the aroma — a “remember who we are” mentality.
- It gives one another a sense of belonging — a “we’re all in this together” mentality.

Is it possible that someone in your life needs encouragement? Who? Consider the reasons we should encourage one another. Which one do you think that person needs most?

## Notes...

Use this space to record what you hear God saying through His Word and some tangible ways you are desiring to live it out in the next week...