

ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

LESSON TEXT

Acts 4:32-37, 9:26-30,
11:19-30

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will identify Barnabas as a disciple whose encouragement helped others to grow.
- The students will learn five ways in which they can encourage other people.
- The students will each personally encourage three people this week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- candy or other small prizes (optional)
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- extra Bibles
- 1 large sheet of white poster board
- 1 large black marker
- tape or thumbtacks

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: Words to Encourage
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Victories
 Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

Story: "Jerry"
 Scripture Study
 Activity: Encouraging Others

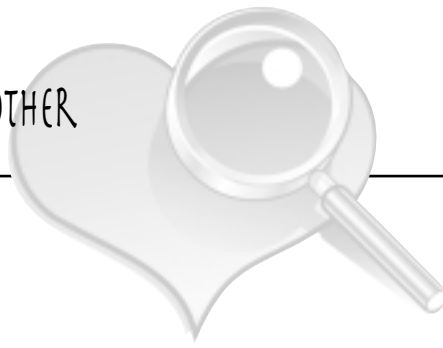
Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Hebrews 3:13
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

- Pray before preparing this lesson. Study the character of Barnabas and consider his impact on the first-century church. This dark world needs encouragement! Our negative, prideful and self-focused society desperately needs people who are positive and outwardly focused, people who believe in other people and can inspire them to be their best for God.
- Barnabas is a great personality for preteens to study because he was so others-centered, humble and faithful—a shining star whose ability to encourage others had a tremendous impact on building up the early church. Preteens who develop that quality now will have a similar impact on the church of tomorrow.

TEACHER TIPS

- As you prepare this lesson, think of someone in your life who has been a great encouragement to you in your walk with God. Remember how you feel whenever you are around him or her. Thank God for that person, and pray to be that way yourself whenever you teach the preteens.
- Remember a time when you inconvenienced yourself in order to meet someone else's need, and be prepared to share that experience during the Scripture Study part of the lesson.
- The activity section of this lesson calls for your students to be an encouragement to students in the younger classes. You will need to contact a teacher of one or two of the younger classes. The number of classes you will be able to work with depends on the size of your class. The encouragement for these classes can be in the form of singing with them, sharing in an activity or reading stories. Come to an agreement with the teacher as to the type of activity the students will participate in, and let the teacher know the approximate timing of your visit.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

WORDS TO ENCOURAGE

The students will make smaller words from the word "ENCOURAGE." This activity offers a "fun" way to help them focus on a word with a powerful purpose.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

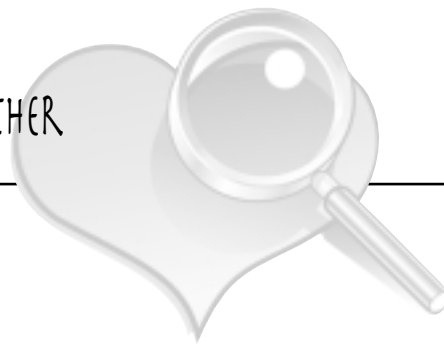
- candy or other small prizes (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students arrive, give each a pen or pencil and a copy of Reproducible Page A (Words to Encourage).
2. Be sure the students understand how to do the activity sheet: *Using the letters found in the word "ENCOURAGE," form as many smaller words as possible.*
3. Directions: See how many smaller words you can make out of the letters found in the word below. Each letter may be used only once in each word, except for the letter "E," which may be used twice. There are at least 52 words. Proper nouns are acceptable to use.



4. After the welcome and singing, give every student a copy of Reproducible Page B (Words to Encourage Answer Key) so that they can compare their answers. If awarding prizes, give prizes to the students with the first, second and third highest number of correct answers (a correct answer is any word that is spelled correctly and uses only the letters found in "ENCOURAGE").

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

VICTORIES

Take time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete the challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Would anyone like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide and that the victories of our brothers and sisters in other countries can inspire us and spur us on.





STORY

"JERRY"

Jerry's story will show the preteens the incredible value of encouragement in everyday life.

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page C ("Jerry").
2. Read the story aloud, or ask another teacher to read it to the class.
3. Ask:
 - *Why was Jerry such an effective person?*
 - *Why do you think Jerry was able to be consistently positive no matter what happened to him?*
 - *Do you know anyone like Jerry?*
 - *How does that person make you feel when you are around him or her?*

SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles
- 1 large sheet of white poster board
- 1 large black marker
- tape or thumbtacks

PREPARATION

1. Before class begins, write the word "ENCOURAGE" across the top of the poster board in large capital letters.
2. Set the poster board aside until time to use it.

Begin by explaining the following: *Jerry had a big impact on the lives of other people because he was so encouraging to be around. Encouragement is very powerful and motivating. Today we are going to look at someone in the Bible who was such a positive person that the other apostles nicknamed him "Son of Encouragement."*

Have the students open their Bibles to Acts 4. Ask for a volunteer to read verses 32-37. *This took place in*

the early days of the first church in Jerusalem (after Jesus had died and gone back to heaven). There were a lot of needs among the people, just like in the church today.

- *What attitude did "the believers," or members of the church, have toward one another? (felt a responsibility to take care of each other, to share everything they had so that no one was needy)*
- *What did Barnabas do that encouraged the church? (sold a field he owned and gave the money to the church for the purpose of meeting other people's needs)*
- *How can you encourage others in this way? (sell something to raise money for the special missions contribution / give money on a regular basis for the poor or orphan contributions / look for ways to share your possessions with others—as in sharing the use of your Bible during class time with a visitor, or sharing toys and games with your brothers/sisters/children of people who are studying the Bible with your parents or having a discipling time with them)*

Have the students turn to Acts 9. *This chapter records the dramatic conversion of Saul, who had been a fierce persecutor of Christians before becoming a disciple. Even after his baptism, many of the other disciples had difficulty trusting and accepting Saul into the fellowship because they feared that his conversion had not been sincere.*

Ask a volunteer to read verses 26-30.

- *How did Barnabas encourage and help Saul? (introduced the newcomer to the rest of the church, befriended and supported Saul so that others would trust him)*
- *Why was Barnabas' support of Saul so important and encouraging for the church? (Saul, later called Paul, changed the course of history as the early church's most prominent missionary and leader. Despite frequently being beaten, scourged, stoned and imprisoned, he continued to spread the message of Jesus throughout the then-known world. Barnabas helped Saul become a leader.)*
- *How could you encourage someone in this way? (make friends with the children of new Christians and help them get to know your other friends / reach out to visitors who come to your preteen class and don't know anyone / when someone in the class brings a visitor, others in the class should also get to know him or her)*



Have the students turn to Acts 11. Ask a volunteer to read verses 19-21. *Great things were happening in the city of Antioch: lots of people were becoming Christians!*

Have another volunteer read verses 22-24.

- *Why was Barnabas sent to Antioch?* (to build up and lead the new church)
- *What qualities did Barnabas have that enabled him to be effective in this role?* (was a spiritual man with much faith / kept himself and others focused on God / didn't just hug people and wish them a good day, but encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts)
- *How could you encourage people in this way?* (be a good example for others to follow / have quiet times with your friends / invite people to come to church / pray with your friends about their needs)

Have another student read verses 25-26. *Barnabas was already doing a great job leading the church in Antioch* (see verse 24).

- *Why do you think he brought Saul to help him?* (Some possibilities are to help the church grow to be its best for God, to encourage Saul and give him an opportunity to grow as a leader, and to deepen his personal friendship with Saul.)
NOTE: Be sure the students understand that only a person who is humble and confident in his relationship with God can feel good about "sharing the limelight" with another person. Barnabas was more concerned about encouraging others to be great for God than he was about making a name for himself. His humility was an important part of his character that made him able to encourage others.

Have one more student read verses 27-30.

- *What did Barnabas do, as described in this passage, that encouraged others?* (He arranged for the church to collect money to help the disciples living in Judea, an area devastated by famine. Barnabas and Saul also volunteered to make the long trip to deliver the money.)

Ask the students to share about the needs of people they know right now and how they could meet those needs. Include examples from your life of times you inconvenienced yourself to help someone else. Explain how your actions encouraged the person you helped.

Tape or tack the prepared poster board in an area of the room where everyone can see it. Have volunteers each share one way in which Barnabas encouraged other people, and then have them write those

answers on the poster board. Be sure the topics listed include:

- sacrificed his money to help other people
- made friends with new members of the church
- helped people focus on God
- helped people become leaders in the kingdom
- looked for and met people's needs, even when it inconvenienced him
- kept his heart pure, humble and full of faith
- was a positive role model

ACTIVITY

ENCOURAGING OTHERS

By helping some younger students, the preteens will learn that they can be great encouragers to others.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explain to the students that they will be practicing encouragement for a few minutes by helping out in another classroom with some younger students.
2. Discuss the activity in which the class will participate, and remind the students that they are to follow the directions of the teacher of the other class or classes.
3. Remind the students that their mission is to encourage the younger students and their teachers. Encourage them to be "out of themselves" as they give.





SCRIPTURE MEMORY

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13

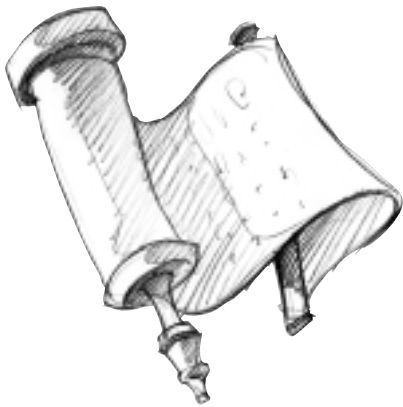
MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page D (Memory Verse) to the students.
2. Review the scripture with the students, repeating the verse aloud several times.
3. Be sure that the students understand the meaning of the verse.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

You are to encourage three people this week using different methods of encouragement.

Suggestions are as follows:

- *Give your schoolteachers a big smile and a warm greeting when you enter their classrooms.*
- *Hug your mom or dad and tell them how much you appreciate all that they do for you.*
- *Tell one of your friends the specific character strengths you see in him or her.*
- *Do some extra chores to earn money to give to your congregation's poor contribution.*
- *Make friends with a member of your preteen class that you don't know well.*

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Find different ways to encourage three people in your life during this week. If you need help or suggestions, ask your teacher or your parents.

ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

LESSON TEXT

1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will learn five ways in which they can encourage other people.
- The students will make a card to encourage someone special to them.
- The students will each personally encourage three people this week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- 1 sheet of construction paper

For the teacher:

- scissors, 1 pair for every 2-3 students
- glue sticks
- markers/crayons/colored pencils
- stickers, sequins, ribbons
- extra Bibles
- old magazines
- suit jacket
- briefcase
- man's tie or woman's scarf
- wads of paper
- schoolbooks
- empty snack wrapper
- basketball (or soccer ball, baseball, tennis racket)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 4 copies for the teacher

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: Encouraging Someone Special
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer and Review
 Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study
 Activity: Make My Day!

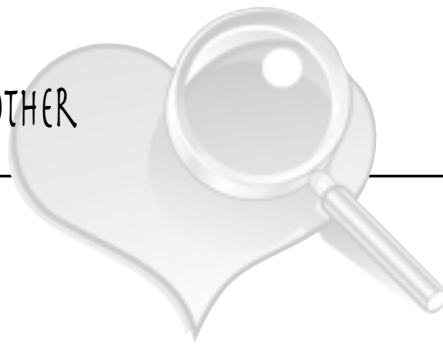
Getting It to Others

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SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Study 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12. This dark world needs encouragement! Our negative, prideful and self-focused society desperately needs people who are positive and outwardly focused, people who believe in other people and can inspire them to be their best for God. Your students need to understand how much their encouragement is needed to build up others and the church. Preteens who develop that quality now will have a great impact on the church of tomorrow.

TEACHER TIPS

- Think of someone in your life who has been a great encouragement to you in your spiritual walk. Remember how you feel whenever you are around him or her. Thank God for that person and pray that you can be that way whenever you teach the preteens.
- For next week's class you will need one magazine for every two students to cut words out of. Start gathering those during this week. You could ask parents to bring some to you on Sunday. (Don't rely on others remembering to bring magazines to the next class. Have them "in hand" as you come to class next week.)

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

ENCOURAGING SOMEONE SPECIAL

The students will each create a card to use to encourage someone who is special to them.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

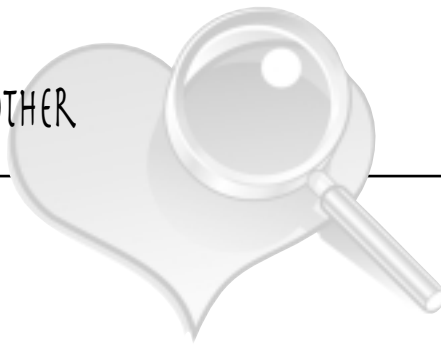
- 1 sheet of construction paper

For the teacher:

- scissors, 1 pair for every 2-3 students
- glue sticks
- markers/crayons/colored pencils
- stickers, sequins, ribbons
- extra Bibles
- old magazines

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the supplies for card making at different stations around the room.
2. As the students arrive, give each a sheet of construction paper.
3. Tell the students to think of someone special whom they would like to encourage, and have them make a card for that person. (This can be one of the three people whom they planned to encourage as part of the Weekly Challenge.)
4. Encourage the students to include a special message in the card, explaining how much they appreciate that person and why. Have Bibles available so that the students can add encouraging scriptures.



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for the students to be a great encouragement to their classmates and to the church.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Hebrews 3:13.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so that as many as possible can share.





SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Have the students turn to 1 Thessalonians 2. Ask one or two volunteers to read verses 6-12.

This passage calls us to comfort and care for other people in the same way that parents care for their own children.

- To help us all focus on and be aware of what Paul means in this passage, share with us what your mom, dad or guardian does that encourages you and makes you feel secure and happy. (You can also share from your background—students love hearing about when you were their age!)
- What are the qualities mentioned in this passage that show how we can encourage others? (be gentle with people, love people, show that you enjoy being with a person, share the Bible and your own life with others, work hard so as not to be a burden to people, live a godly life, comfort people, urge people to obey God)

Now we are going to do a little role-playing to see how these actions work in real life.



ACTIVITY

MAKE MY DAY!

Through role plays, the students will learn to encourage people in practical ways.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- suit jacket
- briefcase
- man's tie or woman's scarf
- wads of paper
- schoolbooks
- empty snack wrapper
- basketball (or soccer ball, baseball, tennis racket)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 4 copies for the teacher

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have two teachers act out the first scenario listed on Reproducible Page E (Make My Day!). See scenarios on the next page.
2. Choose a volunteer (or have another teacher) to role-play how someone could encourage a person in that situation.
3. Choose three other volunteers to act out the remaining scenarios. Give each of them a copy of Reproducible Page E and a few minutes to plan their presentation.
4. Choose three more students to act out the responses of encouragement. Explain to them that they should begin when they hear their scenario actor cry out the "Make My Day!" lament.
5. Have the students use the appropriate props, as suggested on Reproducible Page E.
6. If time permits, devise other situations to be acted out, or allow the students to do so.



1. You stroll into work one morning, smiling and giving all your co-workers a warm, "Good Morning!" You sit down at your desk and begin working. Suddenly, your boss (another teacher) comes in and says, "(your name), I have some bad news. The company is downsizing, and we have to terminate your position, effective immediately. Your last paycheck will be mailed to you on Friday." Your boss leaves, and you collapse in shock and despair. You bemoan your fate with a hopeless attitude: "Oh, what will I do? How will I pay the rent? How will I feed my children? Sob, Sob! If only someone would Make My Day!"
Props: suit jacket, briefcase, desk or chair for employee

2. It's 4:30 PM on a Wednesday afternoon. You've just finished a tasty snack and had some free time to unwind after a busy day at school. It's time to start your homework. You stare at your books for a while, daydreaming, then sigh, "Why do I have to have homework all the time?! It's not fair! I need to have more free time. Oh, I hate this stuff!" You turn away from your books, lay down and close your eyes. As you begin to drift off to sleep, you whisper, "If only someone would Make My Day!"
Props: schoolbooks, empty snack wrapper

3. You are a mom or dad who has just walked into the living room of your home and found it to be a disaster area strewn with toys, schoolbooks, candy wrappers and wads of paper trash. You let go a frustrated "Aghhhhhh!" Then you put your hands to your temple and say, "Oh, I feel a stress headache coming on. I don't have time to clean this mess up. Bible Talk starts in thirty minutes, and I still have to make dinner. Oh, if only those children would realize what a burden it is to me when they don't pick up after themselves. If only someone would Make My Day!"
Props: man's tie for a dad, woman's scarf for a mom, plus wads of paper, books or items in the classroom that can be strewn around to make the area look messy

4. You are at the park practicing for the basketball team tryouts. You dribble and shoot, dribble and shoot, but the balls are just not going in the basket. You really love basketball, and you really want to be on the school team. "This is too hard!" you shout. "I'll never make the team! I'm just not good enough! I can't do anything right! If only someone would Make My Day!"
Props: basketball (or change story and use baseball, soccer ball or tennis racket)



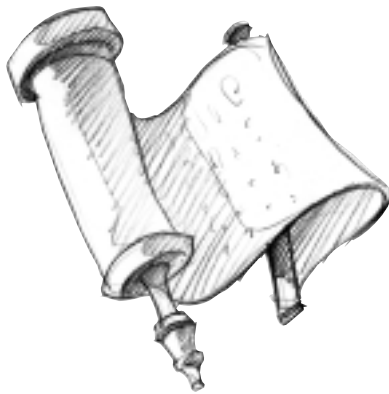
SCRIPTURE MEMORY

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous class.
2. Practice the verse together as a group, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

You are to encourage three people this week using different methods of encouragement.

Suggestions are as follows:

- *Use the card you made during the preclass activity to encourage one of the people.*
- *Give your schoolteachers a big smile and a warm greeting when you enter their classrooms.*
- *Hug your mom or dad and tell them how much you appreciate all that they do for you.*
- *Tell one of your friends the specific character strengths you see in him or her.*
- *Do some extra chores to earn money to give to your congregation's poor contribution.*
- *Make friends with a member of your preteen class that you don't know well.*

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Find different ways to encourage three people in your life during this week. If you need help or suggestions, ask your teacher or your parents.



WORDS TO ENCOURAGE

Directions: See how many smaller words you can make out of the letters found in the word below. Each letter may be used only once in each word, except for the letter "E" which may be used twice. There are at least 52 words. Proper nouns are acceptable to use.

ENCOURAGE

WORDS TO ENCOURAGE

Answer Key

a	ear	cage	roan
an	ego	cane	crane
go	gun	cone	cougar
no	oar	corn	courage
on	our	earn	eager
or	nag	gear	encore
ace	nog	gene	green
age	rag	gone	groan
ago	rug	near	orange
are	ran	rage	range
can	run	rang	rogue
con	Ron	rung	rouge
one	gore	ore	cog

Did you find any that weren't on this list? If so, show them to your teacher.

JERRY

Jerry is the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself: Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim, or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining, or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right...it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or a bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Jerry said.

Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, Jerry's hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After eighteen hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the shooting. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared?" I asked. "Did you lose consciousness?"

Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER, and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

This story was taken off the Internet where it was posted with no attribution.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

HEBREWS 3:13

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Find different ways to encourage three people in your life during this week. If you need help or suggestions, ask your teacher or your parents.

MAKE MY DAY!

SCENARIOS:

1. You stroll into work one morning, smiling and giving all your co-workers a warm, "Good Morning!" You sit down at your desk and begin working. Suddenly, your boss (another teacher) comes in and says, "(your name), I have some bad news. The company is downsizing, and we have to terminate your position, effective immediately. Your last paycheck will be mailed to you on Friday." Your boss leaves, and you collapse in shock and despair. You bemoan your fate with a hopeless attitude: "Oh, what will I do? How will I pay the rent? How will I feed my children? Sob, Sob! If only someone would Make My Day!"

Props: suit jacket, briefcase, desk or chair for employee



2. It's 4:30 PM on a Wednesday afternoon. You've just finished a tasty snack and had some free time to unwind after a busy day at school. It's time to start your homework. You stare at your books for a while, daydreaming, then sigh, "Why do I have to have homework all the time?! It's not fair! I need to have more free time. Oh, I hate this stuff!" You turn away from your books, lay down and close your eyes. As you begin to drift off to sleep, you whisper, "If only someone would Make My Day!"

Props: schoolbooks, empty snack wrapper



3. You are a mom or dad who has just walked into the living room of your home and found it to be a disaster area strewn with toys, schoolbooks, candy wrappers and wads of paper trash. You let go a frustrated "Aghhhhhh!" Then you put your hands to your temple and say, "Oh, I feel a stress headache coming on. I don't have time to clean this mess up. Bible Talk starts in thirty minutes, and I still have to make dinner. Oh, if only those children would realize what a burden it is to me when they don't pick up after themselves. If only someone would Make My Day!"

Props: man's tie for a dad, woman's scarf for a mom, plus wads of paper, books or items in the classroom that can be strewn around to make the area look messy



4. You are at the park practicing for the basketball team tryouts. You dribble and shoot, dribble and shoot, but the balls are just not going in the basket. You really love basketball, and you really want to be on the school team. "This is too hard!" you shout. "I'll never make the team! I'm just not good enough! I can't do anything right! If only someone would Make My Day!"

Props: basketball (or change story and use baseball, soccer ball or tennis racket)