

## Big Idea

Pastor Jeremiah – Part 4

The fourth message in the series **Disruptive Discipleship** is called **Exhortation**, meaning “to call to one’s side” and “to admonish, encourage, and strengthen.” Through Jesus Christ, we have been called into God’s family so that, side by side with brothers and sisters, we can encourage each other.

**If we want to be disciples who are disruptive then we have to call each other to more.** Heb. 3:13-14 says it this way, “But **exhort** one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”

Many people think of exhortation in a negative way, viewing it as judgmental, vengeful, or being yelled at. Godly exhortation is about pointing ourselves and others to Jesus and, when needed, pointing us back to Jesus. We all stumble in our walk with Jesus and can take comfort, joy, and strength from the encouragement of God-centered exhortation.

Pastor Jeremiah provides recommendations for how to exhort each other. God’s word tells us to **1) call each other up daily; 2) speak to sin in each other's lives; and 3) share in the Hope of Christ when we submit to Him**. It’s okay to be not okay but it’s not okay to stay there. As we walk with Jesus, what believers have you chosen to walk with you and who can exhort you to love one another and do good works?

## Discussion Questions

- How have previous relationships impacted the way you approach new relationships? What steps can you take to pursue healthy relationships, regardless of what you’ve experienced in the past?
- What are some examples of ways you have been encouraged through godly relationships? How can we intentionally encourage one another “today?”
- A familiar saying at Victory Church is *“It’s okay to not be okay, but it’s not okay to stay that way.”* Do you have someone who can help guide you closer to where God wants you to be? If not, what Next Step can you take to allow someone into your struggles?

## Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for creating us to be in relationship with You and with each other. Give us courage to pursue authentic, honest relationships. Lead us to Groups where we will find friendships that push us towards You. And help us see ourselves the way You see us and walk fully in the potential You’ve given us.

## Next Steps

- Get in a group. Everybody needs to be known. Let’s share our lives with others and build authentic, honest relationships in our groups this semester.
- Let people in. Everybody needs people in their lives that call them to do greater things and to love God and others more.

## Leader Tip

Encourage your group members to have people in their lives that they share their true struggles with. Remind them that the Group is a great place to have honest conversations about what they are struggling with..