

# Vocations

Are you an encourager?

Paul the Apostle had a gift for encouraging others. We see this running through his letters. He affirmed, encouraged and enabled.

## Marks of an encourager

- They take time to listen to what others say and affirm it.
- They thank people regularly, recognising the small things as well as the big things.
- They see opportunities to let people have a go at doing something.
- They recognise gifts in others and seek to help people grow them.
- They affirm people by using kind words and framing things positively.
- They pray for people and let them know they're being prayed for.
- They are often in the background, but are vital in people growing their gifts and using them for God.
- They make links between people's gifts and roles in the Church. They take time to find out possible learning opportunities and encourage people to get involved.
- They look for ways to celebrate what people do and the gifts they bring.
- They take time to get to know others, what their passions are, what they're interested in and what motivates them.
- They focus on the things that are going well, not on the things that need improving.
- They carefully give feedback so as to build others up and not embarrass them or crush them.

## Examples

Ephesians 1:15-16  
Ephesians 3:14-19  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Colossians 1:9-11  
1 Thessalonians 1:3-4  
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12  
2 Timothy 1:3  
Philemon 4-7