

spiritual caffeine

a monthly shot of encouragement and equipping for student leaders



Cadre Ministries

if you're reading this... thank a leader!

7 biblical ways to encourage those who lead you

day 1: pray

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Your leaders invest a lot in you. One of the biggest things you can do to bless them in return is to pray for them—to pray specifically and consistently. Lift up their families, their work, the other activities they're involved in, their spiritual health, and their energy level. And remember to do this regularly. Perhaps the best way to do that is to pick a place or an event that will remind you to pray for them. For example, every time you drive by a church, or every time the lunch bell rings, pray for the leaders who are investing in you. Why not start right now?



day 2: serve

Read Ephesians 4:11-13

Many people wrongly believe that because pastors are paid by the church, they're the ones responsible for doing all the ministry of the church. That's not what the Bible teaches, though! The job of pastors, elders, and lead volunteers is to equip everyone else in the church to minister. Have you found a place where you can use your gifts, talents, and passions to serve others in the church? If not, ask your youth leader to help you find the right place to get involved. Watching students serve is one of the most rewarding parts of a youth workers' job.

day 3: give

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18

There are many reasons we give to God. It's a reminder to us that everything is from Him and all belongs to Him anyhow. It keeps us dependent on God for everything we need. It helps propel the message of the gospel forward. And it honors and provides for those who give their lives to ministry. Do you regularly tithe (that's 10%) of your income—however small—by giving it to your local church? Do you find ways to give above and beyond that to God? Spend some time praying about how God would have you give, and make a plan for putting it into practice.

day 4: respect

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Timothy 5:19

Those who serve God by leading us are worthy of our respect—not because they're perfect, but because of the role God has placed them in. One of the ways we respect our leaders is by watching the words that we say about them. Do you criticize them? Gossip about them? Listen to gossip or complaints without saying anything in their defense? Commit today to saying only things respectful and uplifting about them, and calling others on it if you hear them doing otherwise.



day 5: correct

Read Matthew 18:15–17

We've already mentioned that leaders are human and aren't perfect. They're certain to make mistakes and to deal with sin like the rest of us. But how should we respond when we see our leaders slip into sin? Remember, this is never, ever something we want to pass on to others in gossip. Instead, Christ calls us to gently, lovingly, and privately bring up the matter to the person himself. If something a leader did is bothering you, humbly mention it to him and see his response. Most godly leaders will welcome people keeping them accountable (or giving the chance to explain their actions) when they do so with respect.



day 6: support

Read 1 Timothy 3:5

I don't know how many of your youth workers are married and have families of their own. But I do know that a lot of people in ministry struggle to find the balance of time spent between the families they love and the ministries they care so much about. Sadly, too often those they serve draw them away from their families—intentionally or not—by calling them during dinnertime or date nights, planning excessive evening meetings, and draining them emotionally. Instead, I challenge you to find some ways to support them in their family life. Babysit for them so they can go on a date, encourage them to take vacations and find ways you can help out while they're gone, or just commit to never calling them after work hours unless it's an emergency. They—and their families—will thank you!

day 7: submit

Read Hebrews 13:17

Scripture clearly calls us to submit to those God places over us. Of course, they don't get off scot-free, either—God will call them to account for the way they lead. But we can make their job a whole lot easier by trusting their judgment, obeying the rules they set in place, and listening to their instructions and wisdom. God has put them in leadership for a reason, and there's a lot we can learn from them!



These 7 ideas were taken from the study "7 Biblical Ways God Wants YOU to Encourage Your Pastor" by Bill Allison. To order the full book or to download a free sample, go to www.cadreministries.com.



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