

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Philippians 2:19-30

These questions are for the **February 2, 2025** message, "**Faithful Friends.**" Please read the sermon passage together to set the context for our study.

Passage Outline

How God uses friendship in Gospel ministry:

1. Case study #1: Paul and Timothy (2:19-24)
2. Case Study #2: Paul and Epaphroditus (2:25-30)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Jon mentioned that one of the challenges to spiritual growth is that Christians feel they cannot "be real" with one another. In other words, we struggle to be honest about our challenges. And sometimes, we even hold back on sharing our joy. What are some reasons we might hesitate to open up to each other?
2. Philippians 2 gives us a number of "...human examples following after Christ's first and foremost example so that the church can see this really happens..." God uses friendship in Gospel ministry. According to Paul, Timothy was "genuinely concerned" about the people at the church at Philippi. In our setting today, what does it mean to show genuine concern for each other? What does it look like to put others first while following Jesus?
3. The Apostle Paul tells of Epaphroditus, who, according to Pastor Jon, "...persevered in humble and thankless service." He worked tirelessly to help and support in ways that brought Paul great comfort. And he was loyal. Share with your Life Group about a time when you were inspired by someone who was willing to do thankless work without expecting recognition. How were you impacted by that experience.
4. Christian friendships are so important for encouraging spiritual growth, support, and a sense of belonging. And yet, many struggle to develop friendships with others in the church. Why might this be the case? What can we do to grow and develop in our Christian friendships? How can we prioritize them?
5. If we are successful in our efforts to develop friends in the church, we may ironically find ourselves spending less and less time in the world outside of the church. How can we work, together with our Christian friends to continue to reach and have influence among our unbelieving friends, showing them the love of Jesus?