

## Philippians: Finding Joy Right Where You Are!

### Key Scriptures

Phil 2:19-30 <sup>19</sup> But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. <sup>21</sup> For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. <sup>22</sup> But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. <sup>24</sup> But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. <sup>25</sup> Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; <sup>26</sup> since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup> For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. <sup>29</sup> Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; <sup>30</sup> because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

### Key Point

Timothy and Epaphroditus are living examples of people who have the mind of Christ, considering others as more important than themselves.

## TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What do you enjoy most and least about serving others?
- Share about a time when God used your life to help someone in a significant way. How did it feel?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How is verse 21 true today?
- How rare are these two men? Can you think of one person who resembles them?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do you think God sometimes passes over “talented and gifted” people to use people like Timothy or Epaphroditus?
- How do Timothy and Epaphroditus illustrate 2:3-4?
- Who are the people in your life who helped shape your self-image by their praise or lack of praise?
- Do you give praise easily, or do you find it hard to do? Where do you need to improve?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Ask God to make you more available to others, and flexible for His use in what He considers “sacred service.”

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Choose one way you will serve another person this week as an act of sacred service unto God.