

“Joy In The Everyday: Signature Traits”

Growth Group Guide

August 2, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

In today’s workplace, buzz-words about how an employee is to act or what “signature traits” they should have are common. Things like self-starter, team player, unbiased, empathetic, self-aware, value continuous learning, etc. In Philippians, Paul highlights two things about Timothy 1) his genuine care for others and 2) his trustworthiness. Do you notice any connection in what the world is looking for and what God provides through us? Discuss.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer. Celebrate that living by the Spirit brings us a reputation of goodness and love that brings real joy to us and others.

John 3:21 ESV. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

Philippians 4:5 AMP/AMPC. Let your gentle spirit [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near [He is coming soon].

Colossians 1:8 NLT. He [Epaphras] has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Has reputation been something you viewed positively or negatively? Why do you view it this way? How do you feel the Church views it?
2. We can be tempted to establish our reputation by living from the flesh. What sort of ways may we attempt to do this?
3. **Read Philippians 2:19-24.** These verses are focused on Timothy, Paul’s young ministry partner. He lives predominantly from the Spirit. What strikes you about him from these verses?
4. In Philippians 2:19, how do we see Paul living in dependence on God? Also, what might give us a hint that Timothy is as well?
5. In Philippians 2:20, Paul basically says Timothy and he are like-minded, kindred in spirit. Why is this important? What issues might exist if they weren’t? (**Philippians 1:27-30** may help.) Do you think this sort of living and relationship is possible for other Christians, or was this just something special for Paul and Timothy? Why or why not?
6. Look again at Philippians 2:20. What signature trait do you find in Timothy’s spiritual reputation? How do you think this trait was seen by others? Have you known someone with this same spiritual reputation? How did you know they had it, and what did it mean to you?
7. In Philippians 2:20-21, Paul says there was no one like Timothy who shared with him in living spiritually. Why was this? What source were the others Paul mentions in this verse living from? What were they

missing out on by living this way? Why would this way of living disqualify them from being sent by Paul?

8. In Philippians 2:22, what other signature trait do we learn about Timothy? Give an expanded definition of this trait.
9. From the trait you found in question #8, have you known someone you would say has this spiritual reputation? Why would you say that?
10. Do you think if we aren’t living dependent on God that we can genuinely care for others and be trusted? Why or why not? How would time and also hardship in a person’s life play into this conversation?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea:** Over time, through our dependence on God, we develop a reputation that we genuinely care for others and can be trusted. Five questions to consider as you talk with God over what you are learning this week, 1) Have I agreed with the world’s idea that self-interest and being self-made are virtues and the way to build my personal reputation? 2) How would choosing to live with full dependence on Jesus, cutting from the flesh, and living by the Spirit change my thinking on my reputation? 3) Am I willing to grow right where God has placed me (my church, my work, my family, my city, etc.) in developing a reputation, over time, of someone who genuinely cares for others and can be trusted? 4) Does God have deeper joy for me if I fully embrace this way of living? 5) From here, what decision(s) do I get to choose to partner with God on this week?

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

In March, 300 middle and high school students united to build friendships, worship, and pray for their peers. Students shared testimonies of bold faith, and one celebrated that after September’s (2025) United Youth Event with One Hope, she found a classroom and another student co-leader for a Bible Club! This September they will unite again at Camp Harlow to worship, have lots of fun, and pray in the 2026-2027 school year. One Hope is also teaming up with youth pastors to equip and support cohorts of student leaders to lead lunch clubs at 8 local public schools. These student leaders from schools and churches across Lane County are being trained and equipped, encouraged and supported so their fellow students and teachers will know that Jesus’ followers are one as it says in John 17. Why are we to be one? So the world will know who we are and who is the Savior no matter our age. Going to school as a Christian can feel isolating until students discover they are not alone. Let’s pray the lunch clubs, the cohorts, the Bible Clubs, the United Youth Event, and the work of Christian youth workers will continue to bring Christian students together, strengthen them in Jesus, and strengthen their witness on every campus. Pray God would encourage them and use them to reach their peers and teachers. (One Hope website, 7/28/26, onehopenetwork.org/united-youth-clubs, and See The City Guide-May/August.)

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