

Discussion Guide: October 12, 2025

Series: *Philippians*

Message: *Philippians 2:19-30*

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Take Home Truth: The Gospel creates true friendships in your life.

Focus Passage

Philippians 2:19-30 (NLT):

19 If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. 20 I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. 21 All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. 22 But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. 23 I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. 24 And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

25 Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. 26 I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. 27 And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

28 So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. 29 Welcome him in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. 30 For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

Friendship: “a deep oneness that develops when two people, speaking the truth in love to one another, journey together to the same horizon” (Tim Keller)

Discussion Questions

1. Who was your first friend growing up? Are you still friends with them? What was that friendship like?
2. In writing about his friendship with Timothy, Paul uses the word for “same-souled” describing the kind of unity and closeness in friendship that they had. Have you ever had someone in your life who, as a fellow follower of Jesus, was “same-souled” with you - like a friend that understands you, knows you and walks with you? How has that friendship shaped your walk with Jesus?
3. Jesus died for His enemies in order that they may be His friends, which includes you. See John 15:13. How does that kind of commitment and sacrifice in friendship shape your relationship with Jesus? What does it mean to be friends with Jesus?
4. Kyle shared three things that we must be willing to do to be the kind of friend to others that Jesus is to us: be willing to suffer, spend time and attention, and make the friendship Jesus-centered. In which of those areas do you struggle with the most in your friendships?

Time of Prayer: *With John 15:13 in mind, first take some time to give thanks to Jesus for showing you His love for you on the cross. Next, ask God this question: **how** can I be the kind of friend Jesus is for me, and **who** does He want me to be that friend to?*