## GO DEEPER

## use these questions for further study

**Read Philippians 2:19-30** Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Read through Paul's description of Timothy, where do you see connections to what Paul has already written in this letter?

Paul speaks of Timothy's "proven character"

Why is it important that a leader or role model be a person of character?

How is someone's character "proven"?

What distinguishes Timothy's character?

What are the distinguishing marks of Christian character?

Paul speaks of Timothy serving alongside him as a son with a father. This is a reference to the common practice of apprenticeship or learning the family business.

What does this tell us about Paul?

What does this tell us about Timothy?

How is this a model for how we learn to follow Jesus?

How is this a model for how we should teach others to follow Jesus?

Have you ever experienced being led by someone who put your interests over their own? What was it like? What about someone who put Christ's interests over your wants/desires? What was that like?

Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi?

Was Epaphroditus successful or a failure? Why?

Why does Paul want the Philippians to honor Epaphroditus?

Who are the Epaphroditus-like people we should be sure to honor?

Pastor Adam said that faithfulness and obedience are more important than "success" or "effectiveness." Do you agree? Why/why not?

How does this mindset shape how you follow Jesus?

How does this mindset impact how you live out evangelism and mission?

No matter our age (young or old) it is important for us to have role-models and influences who reflect Christ and help us walk the Jesus way. Think on your own life, who is influencing you? (include celebrities, media, politicians, friends, etc.) Are these people making you more or less like Jesus? Which people should get less influence and which should get more? How will you do this?

Pray that God will provide you with a "Timothy" you can follow and learn from.

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