

Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Ten:

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) How is your toilet paper / hand soap / food supply? Do you have a related story to share from the past week?
- b) How many of you tuned in live online? How was the experience? What was lacking in the Sunday morning experience?

Passage and Discussion

Read Philippians 2:19-30

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage?
- b) What do we know about Timothy from this passage (look closely)? What do we know about Epaphroditus from this passage (there's more than you think)?
- c) Paul seems to bring these two men into his conversation, using them as examples of living a sanctified, holy life. How does having tangible, personal examples help us in our pursuit to live that way as well?
- d) When you think of the words we have read in the letter thus far, who do you think of as people who exemplify them best? Who are the 'Timothies' and 'Epaphrodituses' that you know? What is it about them that makes them stand out?
- e) Read **v21**. Do you agree with Paul's statement here? How would behavior change if people sought the interest of Christ over their own? Use some concrete examples.
- f) Timothy is commended for thinking not of his own interests, but of Christ's? What does it look like to look to the interests of Christ? How is this different than looking to the interests of others, as Paul writes in **2v4**? Is it different?
- g) **Read Matthew 25:34-40**. Serving Christ and serving others seem to be linked. How can you serve God by serving others, in our current situation?
- h) Epaphroditus is said to have risked his life for the sake of the gospel (**v30**). Where would you say you are on a scale from **1** (I am not willing to risk my own health / safety) to **10** (you can call me Epaphroditus), when it comes to putting yourself at risk for Christ?
- i) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) Discuss as a group, how you can care for each other, or others in the community, in light of the Coronavirus. Is there something you can do to be the hands and feet of Christ to one another and in our city?
- b) Look at your answer in question **(d)**. Consider how you can encourage or honour them this week, in the spirit of **v29**.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) Pray for your neighbours (by name if you can). Ask God to give you opportunities in this season to care for them.
- b) Pray for the communities impacted by the Coronavirus. Pray that the church in those areas would have the courage and opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are sick.

Announcements / Service Opportunities

All physical gatherings at Grant Memorial have been postponed until further notice. Please check the website at: www.grantmemorial.ca for updates.