Small Groups

Fall Semester *2026*

CROSSROADS CHURCH
STATEN ISLAND



About Session 5:

Please Read:

We live in a time when some people believe that keyboard Christianity is the standard for all things spiritual. However, God never intended for us to base our spiritual nourishment on Instagram algorithms, AI-generated content, or reels. This focus ultimately reveals the shallowness of a *pretend* saint.

Thankfully, *Philippians 2:19-30* provides two magnificent examples of ordinary men who displayed extraordinary humility and faithfulness to the Lord. (1) *Timothy*, whose name means "*Honoring God*," was a servant of God whom Paul led to faith in Christ and thus considered him a son in the faith. Both Timothy's mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were believers. Second Timothy 1:5: *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."*). Paul trusted Timothy implicitly, and his example is worthy of emulating.

(2) *Epaphroditus* was not a pastor or missionary, but he was a highly trusted leader within the church and held in high regard by the Apostle Paul himself. We know this because the church sent him to Paul, and in return, Paul entrusted him with this letter for the Philippian Church.

Memory verse:
"Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?."
(Proverbs 20:6)



Before You Watch:

Dicuss this statement: **As inspiring as their examples are, God has preserved this record so that we can apply their actions in our own lives. It reminds us that being humble and faithful before God is possible for all of us.**

Brief Overview I Philippians 2:19-30

Being faithful to God is something you will never regret. Likewise, following the examples set forth in Scripture—humility and faithfulness—invites God's approval and trust. This was the case with Timothy and Epaphroditus, two men who willingly served the Lord regardless of their challenges and circumstances.

Watch Video

1. Faithful followers cultivate healthy, honorable relationships (vv. 19–24)

"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ***20*** *For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.* ***21*** *For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.* ***22*** *But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.* ***23*** *I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,* ***24*** *and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.*

2. Faithful followers earn a reputation of deep, reliable trust (vv. 25–28)

"I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ***26*** *for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.* ***27*** *Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.* ***28*** *I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.*

3. Faithful followers choose commitment over casual convenience. 29-30

*"****S****o receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,* ***30*** *for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.*

Discussion Questions:

Question 1 (On Living Unselfishly): Paul praised Timothy for being genuinely concerned about the welfare of others, unlike most people who seek only their own interests (v. 20–21). In a culture that constantly encourages us to prioritize ourselves, what makes it difficult to truly prioritize the needs of others? How can we actively resist this selfish pull this week?

Question 2 (On Everyday Sacrificial Risk): Epaphroditus was an ordinary church member who essentially "risked his life" (v. 30) through the challenging and exhausting work of behind-the-scenes service. What is a specific area of service in your life right now—whether in your family, church, or community—where you need to move beyond convenience and embrace a genuine willingness to sacrifice for others?

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