

Philippians

YA Life Group Study Guide

Week 5

Background Info

All throughout Asia Minor and Greece (where Philippi is located), new Christians struggled to reconcile Jewish heritage and welcoming Greek converts. It is clear later in the book, this struggle also exists in Philippi. One of the few Philippian Christians called by name is Epaphroditus. The origin of the name is the Greek god Aphrodite – making it very likely he is a Greek Convert, which would have been looked down on by many Jewish Christians. Though he struggled against this perception, it is clear that Epaphroditus rose to great prominence and respect in Paul's eyes.

Intro Discussion

In your experience, what types of people have been the “in crowd” in Church?

On the flip-side, what types of people have been considered “outsiders” in the Church?

Which have you felt most closely associated with in your experience?

Text -- Phil 2:25 – 3:11

Why types of terms does Paul use to describe Epaphroditus?

What types of service do you imagine he might he have done for Paul?

Courier while Paul was on house arrest, companion, encourager, connection to others....

What type of welcome does Paul suggest Epaphroditus receive? (vs. 29-30)

Paul addresses the controversial issue (at the time) of circumcision. What is his answer to that hot-button issue? (vs. 3-4)

After listing his impressive Jewish resume, what is Paul's opinion of it's value? (vs. 7)

Application

What are ways we classify Christians today, by placing worldly values on individuals?

Why is it often difficult to approach our faith with the singular focus Paul describes in this section?

When we do focus only on Christ and the cross, how does that help us address differences?