

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 6-12, 2024  
“MARKS OF GENUINE SERVICE”  
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## GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one task you enjoy doing even though it can be hard, expensive, difficult to do or time consuming?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

**Read Philippians 2:19-30.**

1. Paul distinguished Timothy for being a person who was “genuinely concerned” for others and has “proven worth.” Why does Paul emphasize this? How does this reflect the heart of true Christian ministry?
2. In the NASB Paul describes Timothy as a “kindred spirit” (verse 20). Look it up in a couple of other translations. What do we learn about Timothy from this?
3. What roles and titles does Paul attribute to Epaphroditus? What do you admire about him? What does Epaphroditus' willingness to risk his life for the gospel teach us about the role of laypeople in the church? How does this challenge our understanding of ministry?
4. Did Paul need friends? Would you say Paul was dependent on Timothy and Epaphroditus? Do we need friends, or is Jesus enough?
5. Share about a time when you experienced genuine concern from a fellow believer. How did it impact your faith and sense of community? How can you show similar concern for others in your church?

6. Epaphroditus risked his life to support Paul. Are there ways you can step out of your comfort zone to support your church or fellow believers? What specific actions can you take this week?
7. After reading these passages about Timothy and Epaphroditus, we see that they were faithful, available and had a genuine love for others. Thinking of these three qualities, which area are you strong in? Which area can you see room for growth?

## NEXT STEPS

- Like Timothy, I will try to put the needs of others before my own and strive to serve them with genuine concern.
- I will be a faithful and reliable friend. I will be a source of support and encouragement for those around me, just as Timothy was for Paul.
- I will strive for excellence in my ministry and serve genuinely. I will give my best to whatever tasks I am entrusted with, knowing that my efforts are pleasing to God.
- I will sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. Like Epaphroditus, I will risk my own comfort and safety to further the kingdom of God.
- I will recognize and appreciate the contributions of others to the work of Christ, and I will seek to encourage and support them.
- I will live a life of humility and service. I will remember that true greatness comes from serving others, not from seeking personal glory.

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

## CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow in your service for Christ and learn from Timothy and Epaphroditus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

## BIBLE READING GUIDE

October 7    Philippians 2:19-24  
October 8    Philippians 2:25-30  
October 9    Romans 12:9-21  
October 10   1 Peter 1:3-9  
October 11   2 Thessalonians 3:7-13  
October 12   Psalms 28:1-9  
October 13   Psalms 134:1-3