

The Joy of Friendship

Philippians 2:19-30

10.15.2023

Pastor Gabe Moreno

Joy/FULL Series

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

Friendship is the highest form of relationship. The healthiest marriages have friendship as their bedrock. Many of us are searching for close intimate relationships, and yet we struggle to be the type of friend for which we are seeking. As we look at Paul's letter to the Philippians, we discover potent examples of meaningful friendships and, ultimately, uncover the beautiful love we have in our friendship with Jesus.

REALIZE

1. Find a Timothy.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 2:19-24
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - Timothy was a close companion of Paul. But why? What qualities did Timothy possess that made him a great friend to Paul? Do you know any Timothys? How could you become someone's Timothy?

2. Find an Epaphroditus.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 2:25-28
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - Epaphroditus played a different role in Paul's life than Timothy did. What was the value of that role? Do you share any similar qualities with him? If so, what are they, and how can you share those qualities with people who need them?

3. What a friend we have in Jesus.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 2:29-30
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - The hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus is a timeless truth. What stood out to you about the lyrics? How can we find friendship in Christ when in crisis?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?

