



Sermon Discussion Guide

Title of the Sermon: Faithful Friends

Series Name: Philippians: Unshakeable Joy

Main Text: Philippians 2:19–30

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend's passage and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

Icebreaker Options

- Who is a friend (past or present) that has been there for you in a hard season—and what made them so meaningful?
 - What's one quality you value most in a close friendship: loyalty, honesty, encouragement, or consistency?
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Leader's Note

Philippians 2:19–30 may feel like “travel plans” at first glance, but it's actually a powerful picture of gospel friendship. Paul highlights two faithful friends—Timothy and Epaphroditus—and shows what it looks like to live with genuine care, sacrificial service, and Christ-centered commitment.

1: Faithful Friends Genuinely Care for Others

Key Scripture

“I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests.”
— **Philippians 2:20**

Discuss

1. What's the difference between genuine care and shallow or polite care? How can you begin to show more genuine care to those around you?
2. Paul says many people “seek their own interests” (v.21). What are some subtle ways you're tempted to show selfishness in your own friendships?
3. Who has God placed in your life right now that needs your care and attention? What's one step you could take towards them this week?

Leader's Note

Timothy wasn't perfect, but he was dependable and sincerely invested in other people. Faithful friends don't just show up when it's convenient—they care deeply and consistently.

2: Faithful Friends Serve with Proven Character

Key Scripture

“You know his proven character... he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father.”
— **Philippians 2:22**

Discuss

1. What does “proven character” look like in real life? What do your actions “prove” about your character?
2. Why do you think God often grows faithfulness in us through long seasons of ordinary service?
3. In your current season, what is one area where God may be building your character through consistency and obedience?

Leader's Note

Timothy's life backed up his faith. Gospel friendships are strengthened when people aren't just emotional support—they are spiritually steady, dependable, and committed to serving Christ.

3: Faithful Friends Sacrifice for the Work of Christ

Key Scripture

“He came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life...”
— **Philippians 2:30**

Discuss

1. Epaphroditus served in a way that was costly. What could it cost us to be faithful to God in our relationships with other people?
2. Paul tells the church to “welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and hold people like him in honor” (v.29). Why is it important to celebrate faithful servants?
3. Where might God be inviting you to take a step of costly obedience for the sake of others or the mission of Christ – how could you invite those around you to join in?

Leader’s Note

Epaphroditus reminds us that faithful friendship is more than encouragement—it’s sacrifice. The gospel creates friends who will risk comfort, time, and reputation to serve Jesus and care for His people.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of faithful friends and for the way You use relationships to strengthen our faith. Help us become people who genuinely care, serve with proven character, and live sacrificially for the work of Christ. Give our group unity, humility, and joy as we follow You together. We lift up the needs shared today and ask You to meet each person with Your comfort and strength. Amen.