

REAL JOY

A STUDY
THROUGH
PHILIPPIANS

WEEK 7
MARCH 8

LIFE
GROUPS

GUIDE

FINDING JOY

For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. . . But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

Philippians 2:20, 22

GETTING STARTED

Who has been the best person you have worked with, or for?

STORY BACKGROUND

Jesus' methods and teaching was perfect. Paul followed Jesus' method of making disciples who made disciples through intentional relationships while loving God and loving people. The writer of Philippians, Paul demonstrated disciples making disciples in the many people he called co-workers, and at other times called his "children".

Titus, a converted Gentile, accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Jerusalem Council. He is often referred by Paul as his "brother" (2 Corinthians 2:13). Titus would later serve as Paul's messenger to the Christians in Macedonia, Achaia, and even to Corinth. He eventually would be appointed by Paul to guide and appoint leaders for the churches on Crete.

Silas, also known as Silvanus, was a leader "*among the believers*" (Acts 15:22 NIV). He accompanied Paul and Barnabas at the beginning of their missionary ministry in Macedonia and Achaia. This was before Timothy was with Paul when they reached Lystra. Silas parts ways with Paul sometime later, and is not mentioned anymore in Acts or any of Paul's other letters. He is later mentioned as Peter's associate in Rome, called "*faithful brother*" (1 Peter 5:12 NIV).

Timothy, Paul's closest associate, met Paul in Lystra in Lycaonia region and became a fellow missionary to the Gentiles. Specifically, Timothy was with Paul and Silas when they first established Christian communities in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth. Later in his ministry, Timothy would be instructed by Paul to remain in Ephesus to guide the church there.

In Philippians 2:19-30 we see Paul's intentional relationships.

IN TRUE FRIENDSHIP



STORY: Philippians 2:19-30 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:1-2

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- How does Paul describe Timothy?
- Why did Paul also send Epaphroditus?



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What is the difference between Timothy and “they” (verse 21)? What was his “proven worth”? How does this resonate with you?
- What do you think Paul thought of Timothy when reading these verses?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- Paul was not able to go to the church in Philippi, so he had to delegate to Timothy the journey. How can you do the same today?
- If you have no one to delegate to, or to call your child in Christ, or disciple, how can you start praying today that God would send you someone?

Next Week's Life Group: Real Joy: Finding Joy in Our New Identity

Next Week's Story: Philippians 3:1-11

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,*
and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships – growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. (*Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
