



**WELCOME:** *We are continuing this series based on the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, a church Paul revisited on his "second missionary journey" probably 49-52AD and he sends the letter we have in the New Testament, from a time of being in jail probably in Rome in 60-62AD.*

*(The questions are based most on the New Living Translation, but using a variety of translations may help to give a broader perspective)*

- From the series so far, how would you describe Paul's letter to the Philippians, what is the main message Paul is attempting to communicate?
- In what ways do you think Connect as a church might learn from this letter?

### ***Read Philippians 2:19-21***

- What do you think makes Timothy's concern "genuine" (*isopsychos*)?
- How do genuine care and imitation of Christ connect?
- How do you think we could train disciples who share this heart of concern for others?

### ***Read Philippians 2:22-24***

- What does "proved," (*dokimēn*) suggest about Timothy's character?
- How is long-term faithfulness important, how does it compare to visible success?
- What mentoring relationships usually shape someone's journey to spiritual maturity?

### ***Read Philippians 2:25-27***

- In what ways does Paul's compassion for Epaphroditus reveal his humanity and pastoral heart?
- What does this teach about divine mercy in times of suffering?
- How do you think empathy can deepen gospel partnerships?

### ***Read Philippians 2:28-30***

- What does the term "risked his life" convey about Epaphroditus's courage?
- How might believers today "risk life" (or at least risk our comfort) for Christ's sake?
- Why and in what ways should the church honour such servants publicly?

### **Practical Application**

- Reflect on one or two “ordinary” servants who embody Christlike faithfulness.
- How could you encourage or thank them this week?

### **Pray together:**

Father God, we thank You for the example of Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus, of what it means to live a Jesus focussed Christian life. We thank you for the example of others we know who model living as authentic followers of Jesus for us too. Help us when we have tough times to continue to seek to retain joy despite our circumstances. Help us to be a blessing to others and for the good things we do to bring praise to you our Father in heaven.

We pray that we might hear more clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit and have the spiritual capacity to perceive what you are already doing, that we might join in with You. We pray for the leaders of our church and the leaders in our world, for our neighbourhood, our city, our nation, and the nations and for clarity about our part in taking the good news of Jesus to our world. Amen