

## Grow Group Questions • Philipians 2:19-30 • JoyFull

1. When you think of the word intimacy, do you think of friendship? How would you define intimacy?
  - a. Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12. **Does the idea of intimacy in a friendship make you uncomfortable?**
  - b. In verses 25-29, Paul uses many words to describe Epaphroditus & Timothy. **Which one resonates most with you right now, and why?**
2. Read Philipians 2:19-30. Reflecting on these verses, what strikes you most? Why?
  - a. **What stands out to you about how Paul describes these two men?**
  - b. Paul clearly has high esteem for both Timothy and Epaphroditus. **What caused Paul to esteem them so much?**
  - c. **What about your life would cause those in your life to conclude your concern for Jesus and others was genuine?**
3. **Do you think there is a difference between earthly friendship and biblical friendship? Why or why not?**
  - a. In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Billy asked the question “What does it take to be a Godly friend?”. **What are some qualities of a Godly friend?** Think of some qualities you have seen in people you know. Read John 15:13, Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 27:9.
  - b. Read Proverbs 16:28, Proverbs 17:9, Job 6:14, **What are some things you’ve seen that prevent intimate friendships?**
  - c. Read Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 27:5-6. **What role does rebuke have in an intimate friendship? Why is it important?**
4. **In what ways is friendship with God similar to friendship with other believers? In what ways is it different?**
  - a. Read Proverbs 18:24. **Do you tend to think of God as your friend, or do you think of other adjectives first? Why or why not?**
  - b. Read Job 29:4, John 15:11-17, James 2:23, James 4:4-5. **How would you describe what an intimate friendship with God should look like? Why is friendship with the world and friendship with God incompatible?**
5. **Do you feel like you have a true friendship with God? Why or why not? What is a step you can take this week to be closer to Him?** Take some time to pray as a group that God would continue to show us what it means to be His friend.