

09/20

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passage(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

Following Jesus brings many blessings, but it does not promise ease. Paul writes from prison. Epaphroditus has nearly died from illness. The Philippians are anxious about both men. These hardships are not isolated problems. Each person's suffering becomes a shared burden because they belong to one another in Christ.

Paul's relationships with Timothy and Epaphroditus show how Christian community sustains hope. Timothy shows compassion, and Epaphroditus displays courage. Both support Paul amid his suffering. These relationships did not form overnight. They were built through years of steady faithfulness, shared service, and mutual sacrifice.

Christian perseverance is never merely individual. We continue faithfully by bearing one another's burdens and walking through hardship together. We persevere not because we're tough but because we're together.

OPEN:

1. Who is someone you know you could call when life gets tough? What sets them apart?

REFLECT:

2. Read Philippians 2:19-24. How is Timothy different from others Paul has worked with (vv.20-21)? How does Paul indicate his deep trust in Timothy?

3. Read Philippians 2: 24-30. What do Paul's descriptions of Epaphroditus in verse 25 reveal about their relationship? Why does Paul urge the Philippians to honor and receive him with joy?

4. What qualities do Timothy and Epaphroditus share? What do these men demonstrate about the distinction between Christian friendship and other friendships?

APPLY:

5. Who has been a Timothy or an Epaphroditus in your own life? How have they done so?

6. Who are people you need to be more intentional in developing a relationship with? What specific actions can you take this week to strengthen these connections?

7. Ordinary acts of faithfulness allow us to help carry someone else's burden. With this in mind, consider participating in one of these ministry opportunities as a group this semester.

Home Group Service Opportunities:

Room in the Inn: Your group can serve a group of members of the homeless community for an evening while they are hosted at the church overnight.

RIFA: Your group can sign up to serve lunch together at RIFA's Soup Kitchen week of December 8-11.

YoungLife Northside: Your group can serve students at Northside High School by providing dinner for their Monday night club meetings.

YoungLives: Your group can serve young single mothers by providing childcare during their club meetings.

College Fellowship: Your group can provide dinner for college students during exam week at our "College Fellowship: Barn Study Hall" on either December 8 or 9.

Scarlet Rope Project: Your group can volunteer to serve at Wingfest 2026, Scarlet Rope's annual fundraiser, on Saturday, October 24, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Ronald McDonald House: Your group can provide meals, donate laundry and hygiene items, or volunteer to serve families of hospitalized children at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

For more information or to sign up for one of these opportunities contact Jeremy Hunt at jhunt@fellowshipjackson.com or LaShon Hawks at lhawks@fellowshipjackson.com

**FOR MORE RESOURCES, ACCESS THE HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP APP,
OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT [FELLOWSHIPJACKSON.COM/HOMEGROUPGUIDE](https://fellowshipjackson.com/homegroupguide)**