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**Thank You Notes-Best Friends**  
**Philippians 2:19-30**

**June 25, 2023**

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**DAILY DEVOTION**

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5-day plan on your own or with your group!  
[Friend-ish](#)

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**INSPIRATION**

“Christian friendship is a treasure because it helps us cling to our greatest Treasure. Jesus is our Bread of Life, our Living Water, our Pearl of Great Price, our Light, our Resurrection, our very Life. The greatest danger to our souls is that we might abandon abiding in him, following him, and finding our joy in him. Therefore, the best gift a friend can give is a commitment to fight for our joy in and communion with Christ. (Quote-Kelly Needham)

**ICE BREAKER**

1. Share the name of your best friend in school and why.
  2. Reread the quote from Kelly Needham and share how Christian friends have supported you.
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**DEEP DIVE**

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“More important to Jesus than to us. Timothy got it. What a blessing this man was to Paul. To the church. Every church needs a Timothy – who looks up – love the Lord with all we got – and who looks out – love our neighbor.”

**Read Philippians 2:19-22 and Luke 10:25-37 and then answer the following questions:**



3. According to Philippians 2:20-22, what do we know about Timothy's friendship and work?
4. Having read Luke 10:25-37, what does the Samaritan demonstrate taking care of the interests of others involve?
5. Where have you experienced or seen "taking care of the interests of others" happen at Stonebridge?

### **Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

"The church had sent Epaphroditus to Rome to help Paul out. He brings money and aid. He is described by Paul in glowing terms – my brother-coworker – fellow soldier – your messenger. This is an impressive person – the church is listening and nodding in agreement. We knew he would be helpful for you. But he almost died. He is OK – but it was touch and go for a while. He is OK. But Paul lets the church know that he is sending him home. He is coming home sooner than expected. There is a change of plans".

### **Read Philippians 2:25-30 and then answer the following questions:**

6. Paul had Epaphroditus and Timothy for support. Look at the following list of things a friend might provide to a brother or sister in Christ. What would be some practical examples?
  - Increase our joy in God.
  - Expose sin in us that keeps us from God.
  - Encourage us to obey God.
  - Bring us to God in our weakness.
  - Love us for the glory of God
7. Sending Epaphroditus back to the church in Rome was a change in plans. It could have been done due to his health or Paul wanting to show the church in Rome Epaphroditus was fine. Just as the church in Rome was experiencing the unexpected change of Epaphroditus returning, there are often changes in the church. What changes in the church do you find difficult and why?
8. Pastor Mark said that being in ministry is difficult. How could the church support those in ministry?

### **Additional Study**



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If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Proverbs 17:17
- John 15:15
- John 13:34-35
- Hebrews 10: 24-25

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### **NEXT STEPS**

9. How could you encourage one of your Christian friends?
10. Who and how could you encourage someone in ministry at Stonebridge?

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### **PRAYER**

1. After sharing your next steps, determine who you will pray for throughout the week.
2. Pray for God to reveal who needs a friend to encourage them in their Christian walk.

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### **SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- MILLARD - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- FREMONT - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- OMAHA - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.