Life Group Discussion Questions 11-8-26 sermon
Real People, Real Ministry — Timothy & Epaphroditus **Philippians 2:19–30**

Paul has just finished the great passage on Christ's humility and exaltation, and then he pivots to talk about two ordinary men. **Why do you think he does that? What does it tell us about how the Gospel actually moves forward?**

Paul says of Timothy, "I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare" (Philippians 2:20).
When you hear the word *genuine* in that sentence, what comes to mind? What's the difference between caring that looks real and caring that *is* real?

Timothy — The Rare Gift of Genuine Concern
Paul describes Timothy as someone who "proved himself" (v. 22). The word carries the idea of metal tested and found pure.
Think about your own life, where has your faith been tested in a way that showed what you're really made of? What did that season reveal?

Paul mentions Timothy's mother Eunice and grandmother Lois in 2 Timothy 1:5.
Who is the Lois or Eunice in your story — someone who strengthened your faith before you knew what faith was? What did they do that mattered most?

Paul writes that "all the others care only for themselves" (v. 21). That's a tough line.
In what areas of your life do you find it easiest to drift toward caring mostly about your own concerns? What tends to pull you there?

Paul invested in Timothy, and Timothy was shaped by that investment.
Who is the Timothy in your life right now — someone younger in faith you could be intentionally pouring into? What would it actually look like this month to start?

And the other side of it: **Who is your Paul — someone further along who is investing in you? Are you letting them? If not, what makes it hard to be on the receiving end?**

Epaphroditus — The Beauty of Sacrificial Faithfulness
Paul gives Epaphroditus three titles: brother (strong love for each other), co-worker (strong worker alongside others), and fellow soldier (strong defender of others in hard spiritual times) (v. 25).

Which of those three comes easiest to you? Why. Which of these is the hardest for you? Why

Epaphroditus made a long journey to serve Paul, got gravely ill, and nearly died, yet his distress was that the Philippians had heard he was sick (v. 26).
What does that say about where his attention was pointed? When has someone's care for you looked like that?

Paul says Epaphroditus "risked his life" (v. 30) — the Greek word is the one gamblers used for pushing every chip to the center of the table. He went all in.
What would "going all in" look like for you in this season of your life? Be specific — what would you actually have to put on the table?

Paul tells the church to "honor people like this" (v. 29).
Who is your Epaphroditus — someone at MEFC who has served faithfully behind the scenes and probably assumes no one notices? What could you do this week to honor them in a way they'd actually feel?

Our society honors to athletes, celebrities, and influencers. The Kingdom hands it to faithful servants.
Where do you feel the pull of the world's way of measuring worth, in your work, your family, your own sense of whether your life counts?

Here's the challenge this week: **Be a Timothy. Be an Epaphroditus.** Be caring. Be reliable. Be available. Be faithful. Be trustworthy. (Be CRAFTY)