



Life Group  
Sermon Guide Questions  
6 JULY 2025

The Joyful Descent: A Philippians 2 Miniseries

## *The Gospel with Skin On*

### **Philippians 2:19-30**

#### **Discovery**

1) Paul says he has “no one else like” Timothy (v. 20) and contrasts him with everyone who “looks out for their own interests” (v. 21). What specific qualities in verses 20-22 make Timothy’s concern so unique and prove his character?

2) Looking at verses 25-30, what specific risks did Epaphroditus take, and what does his distress over the church hearing he was ill reveal about where his own priorities lay, even in his own difficulty and suffering?

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### Understanding

3) The sermon distinguished between “strategic kindness” and Timothy’s “genuine concern.” How does the gospel free us from serving others for what we can get and empower us to care for their welfare without any strings attached?

4) Paul commands the church to honor Epaphroditus (v. 29), who, from a worldly perspective, failed his mission by getting sick. What does this reveal about God’s definition of a successful and honorable life, and how does it challenge our own?

### Application

5) Who is one person in your life for whom God is calling you to move beyond calculated kindness and actively seek their welfare this week?

6) Epaphroditus served at a tremendous personal cost. What is one area where you tend to serve only when it’s comfortable (really), and what would it look like to take one small, costly step of faith to serve there anyway?

7) Paul commands the church to “honor people like” Epaphroditus. Who is one person at UCM (or one hundred persons!) whose “gospel with skin on” faithfulness you can specifically honor in the coming weeks, not with flattery, of course, but with genuine encouragement for their service?

