

## LOOKING UP TO EPAPHRODITUS

Philippians 2:25-30

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Our vision at Saylorville Church is to be a church that makes more people more like Jesus.
  - As a group, explain what it means to be “more like Jesus.”
  - Since Jesus isn’t physically on earth right now, how can we learn to be more like Him?
  - Who are some people in your life that are examples of men/women who are like Jesus?

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Philippians 2:25-30. In his message, Pastor Pat showed us three characteristics of Epaphroditus that are reachable for every Christian.

#### 1. Epaphroditus was Dependable. Are you? (vs. 25)

1. Proverbs 25:19 (NIV) says that relying on unfaithful people is like having a broken tooth or a lame foot! Have you ever worked with people like that? Explain the effect that had on you and others.
2. Paul was dependent on Epaphroditus while he was in prison, and Epaphroditus came through (Philippians 4:18). As a result, Paul gave him these five compliments:
  1. “Brother” - are you in Christ’s family? Have you been born again?
  2. “Fellow worker” - how are you working for Christ right now?
  3. “Fellow soldier” - do you often think of the Christian life as a battlefield?
  4. “Messenger” - overall, what kind of message is your life sharing with those around you?
  5. “Minister” - who are some people that provide spiritual help to you when you need it?
3. Which of the above five marks of a dependable person sticks out to you as one to work on?

#### 2. Epaphroditus was Expendable. Are you? (vs. 26-28, 30)

1. Epaphroditus was sent to meet a need and then he got sick and became in need himself. He was willing to be sacrificed in order to accomplish his mission. What might your schedule, budget, priorities, etc. look like if you were willing to sacrifice for the mission of making more people more like Jesus?

#### 3. Epaphroditus was Commendable. Are you? (vs. 29)

1. Psalm 16:3 says, “The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them.” Do you think we would call Epaphroditus a hero if he were in our church today? Why or why not?
2. Who are some people that you know that are like Epaphroditus that you could encourage this week?

### PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Jesus is our ultimate example of one who was dependable, expendable, and then commended. Pray that we will imitate Him, and be worth imitating.

### MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Psalm 16:3, “The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them.”*

