



**Reference: Philippians 2:14-30**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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This week in our study through Philippians we will be looking at three strategic relationships that allowed Paul to experience Joy. We will then seek to add or continue those types of relationships in our lives so that we too may find joy.

## **ICE BREAKER**

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Tell us about your childhood best friend. How did you meet? What would you do together?

## **QUESTIONS**

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- 1.) Why do you think relationships are necessary for us to experience joy?
- 2.) Paul gives the Philippians a difficult to obey command in v.14, what does he say? Read vv.15-18 what are some of the reasons he gives for obeying this command? Why do you think we find obeying this to be difficult?
- 3.) Pastor John stated that having a mentor is one of the three strategic relationships we must have to experience joy. How have you seen the importance of a mentor in your life? Do you currently have some mentors speaking into your life?
- 4.) Pastor also stated that we need someone to emulate us (a mentee or disciple). Pastor stated this is true because there is no greater joy than seeing others grow. Read vv.19-24, how do we see this in the way Paul describes his mentee Timothy?
- 5.) Have you ever had to teach something to someone? What happened as a result of you teaching it? The same is true that when we teach others to become more like Christ, we ourselves become more like Christ. Who are the people in your life that for a season could be a Timothy for you?
- 6.) The last strategic relationship we need is someone to encourage us. In this season in Paul's life it was a man named Epaphroditus. Read vv. 25-30, what are some of the ways Paul describes Epaphroditus? What doesn't he call him? What does that mean for those of us who aren't in vocational ministry?
- 7.) How can you be encouragement to your church body? Who can you come alongside of to offer some encouragement like Epaphroditus did with Paul?
- 8.) Ultimately though what is the most important relationship for us to experience joy? Do you believe it is possible for someone to experience joy without a relationship with Christ? What are some ways that your relationship with Christ has brought you joy, where without Jesus joy wouldn't have been possible?

**For Further Reading: Matt. 5:16; Rom. 8:18; 1 Tim. 1:1-2; Eph. 4:11-12**