



### **A. Examining the texts.**

1. Read Philippians 2:19-24. How does Paul see Timothy and what do we learn about his character? Do you think that Timothy reflects the Christ mindset/attitude spoken of in Philippians 2:5-11? If so how?
2. Read Philippians 2:25-30. How does Paul see Epaphroditus and what do we learn about his character? How did he serve Paul and how did he express his affection toward the Philippian church?
3. Read Philippians 2:19-2:30. How does this section fit into the rest of chapter 2? How does it contribute to the overall message of the letter?

### **B. Meditation & application**

4. What can we learn about the “shape of Christian ministry,” from the example of Timothy? What role do you think Paul’s relationship have in forming him?
5. Have you ever had “a Paul,” in your world that has helped shape you as a Christian? Do you think that would be beneficial for you?
6. What can we learn about the shape of Christian ministry from the example of Epaphroditus? How does he embody what Paul said about himself in Philippians 1:21-26?
7. Do you think emulation is a valid way of learning to live as a Christian? What are its possible benefits and draw backs? Think of people in your faith journey who have contributed the most to your spiritual journey. Who are they- what did you learn from them?

Dear heavenly Father, Thank you for placing good people in our lives. Help us to choose our role models well and to be discerning in who and what we imitate as we seek to follow you. Also we pray that you might so form us and shape us by your word and through your people- so that we can be the kind of disciples that seek to honor and glorify you. In Jesus Name- Amen.