



The Work of the Ministry

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: To learn how the discipleship process reproduces effective and faithful spiritual children as ministers, capable of continuing the work of the ministry.

Read Philippians 2:19 - 24 - Sending out Spiritual Sons!

- The work of making disciples goes well beyond preaching sermons and praying over people!
- In making disciples we are imparting the work of the Gospel into those we lead, teaching them how to effectively minister through their unique personalities, giftings and anointings.
- Paul excelled at the apostolic work of planting churches, with trained and impactful sons being released to continue the Kingdom Building process.
- Timothy was a powerful son in the faith and Paul encourages the Philippian believers to be ready to receive him. Timothy would be a minister with the same love and care for them as Paul, more concerned about the work of the Gospel than himself!
- We must look to those we disciple as children we release to continue the work, just as He works through us. It is a great testimony to the Gospel that fruitful disciples carry on the Work!

Read Philippians 2:25 - 2:28 - Brothers in the Battle!

- Not only do we release our spiritual children into the Work of the Gospel, to fulfill their destiny - we co-labor with faithful brothers and sisters in Building the Kingdom!
- Epaphroditus is counted as such a brother by Paul. Faithful to the Work, even in the midst of deadly illness, caring more for the sheep than himself!
- We have an incredible testimony of God’s mercy in relation to this illness. Epaphroditus was now ready to travel and encourage the church at Philippi!
- As spiritual siblings, we stand together, encouraging, challenging and equipping one another for the purpose of God in our lives!

Read Philippians 2:29 - 2:30 - Lives Committed to the Purpose!

- In these two verses, Paul expands his thought on Epaphroditus and his faithful service to the Lord.
- Paul instructs that men willing to lay their lives down, even in the midst of personal struggle, these men should be received with joy and given honor.
- True leaders, have God’s heart for His People even in their discomfort and in poor health!
- The Work of the Gospel should always supersede our personal desires, our personal comfort and our weaknesses. The primary goal should always be the Gospel!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you currently have spiritual children that you are discipling? If so, how are you placing an expectation on them to use their gifts for the Kingdom? If not, what is preventing you from discipling?

- If you are placing an expectation on those you lead, share some of the ways you are doing this. (Examples: Growth Track, teaching a Connect Lesson, keeping them accountable to serving in the house, praying for others or taking Bible College classes)
- Discuss how each individual may respond in unique ways to expectation placed on them. Some may be go-getters that run with little or no motivation, while others may need consistent affirmation and encouragement. Each person is unique and may need a different form of discipleship than another.
- If you are not discipling, what is holding you back? Have you been disciplined? If not - start today!

Question 2: What impact have spiritual siblings had on your life? If none or little, how committed have you personally been in nurturing these relationships?

- While the affirmation of a father is priceless, the challenge of siblings promotes consistent growth!
- There is a competitive nature that exists between siblings that can drive and motivate us to go beyond our perceived limitations and excel to new levels!
- Even if you have no natural siblings, spiritual siblings will be the challenging “iron” that will sharpen us, as iron sharpens iron. Pursue faithful and Godly siblings to challenge and who will challenge you!

Question 3: Do you understand the incredible faith and commitment that we see in the life of Epaphroditus, continuing to carry concern for the people of God and the Purpose of the Gospel, despite his personal illness?

- We must realize that there will always be challenge, illness and the attack of the enemy trying to hold us back from our purpose - We must Press On and Run the Race!
- When others see us overcome - it will bring joy and will Glorify God!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data