



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite Oscar nominated movie and do the Oscar's affect your decision on whether to watch a movie or not?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 2 & 4.

1. Read Philippians 2:25. How does Paul describe Epaphroditus? Why does Paul choose these words and why does he list them in the order he does? What does it mean to be an "apostle" or "sent one"? How did Epaphroditus help or minister to Paul? Can you think of any individual who recently rendered a conspicuous service to their community out of their own resources? What do you most admire about that person and how was the community affected?
2. Read Philippians 2:26-30. Pastor Tom began by explaining that gambling is not a positive in the Bible, however, gambling is something praiseworthy in the life of Epaphroditus. What was he gambling and what were the circumstances that caused him to do such a thing? Why was he gambling his life? How do the self-denying, self-effacing sacrifices made by Epaphroditus challenge us today?
3. Pastor Tom revealed this truth: "God doesn't make anything or anyone ordinary." Take a moment to share your answers to the questions Pastor Tom asked us on Sunday: How would people who know you well describe you? Are any of the characteristics of Epaphroditus real in your own life? When it comes to loving, serving, and following Jesus, what are you willing to personally risk, and why are you willing to risk it?
4. Read Matthew 10:37-39. This verse may seem harsh upon first reading it, but Jesus is telling us how to love. How do we love God above father or mother and son or daughter? Why should we love in this order? What does it mean for us to take up our cross and follow his way?

Personal Guide for Week of January 21st

DAY 1 - Read Philippians 2:1-11 and 25-30. In many ways these verses reflect the attitudes Paul highlights in the life of Epaphroditus. How should we imitate Christ?

DAY 2 - Read Luke 10:25-37. How is Epaphroditus like the "Good Samaritan"?

DAY 3 - Read Philippians 4:14-19 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. There are many examples of the generosity of the Philippian church and Epaphroditus.

DAY 4 - Read Philippians 1:3-11. The story of Epaphroditus is also the story of Paul and the church of Philippi.

DAY 5 - Read Matthew 10:37-39 and Luke 14:26-27. Compare the language used in each retelling of one of Jesus' sayings. How are they different? How are they the same?



Message Notes & Small Group Discussion // Personal Guides

"Everyday Epaphroditus"

Week of January 21, 2018



“Nothing Ordinary: Everyday Epaphroditus” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

_____ isn't portrayed positively in the Bible...

So how can it...be something p_____ in the life of an ordinary person named Epaphroditus (name means “handsome, c_____”)?

1. Who Was Epaphroditus?

He was a significant _____ in the Philippian Church.

Note Philippians 2:25

A significant part of the Philippian's _____ was Epaphroditus himself!

- A. _____ brother
- B. Co-worker
- C. Fellow _____
- D. Your messenger = “_____” = “sent one”
- E. Help or minister = “leitourgos” = “_____” -...a public-spirited citizen who out of his own resources rendered some conspicuous service to the community. (Rees)

2. What Was Epaphroditus Gambling?

He was gambling his _____ (*note Philippians 2:30b*).

During his ministry with Paul, he became very _____ (*note Philippians 2:26-27*).

3. Why Was Epaphroditus Gambling?

He was willing to risk his _____ for the work of Jesus (*note Philippians 2:29-30*).

Such a word brings its own challenge and rebuke to an easy-going Christianity which makes no stern demands, and calls for no limits of self-denying, self-effacing sacrifice. Here is a man who gave little thought to personal comfort and safety in order to _____ his responsibility (Martin).

Because God doesn't make anything or anyone ordinary:

Here are some questions to ask ourselves:

- So how would people who _____ me well describe me?
- Are any of the characteristics of Epaphroditus real in my own life (Point 1 above)?
- When it comes to loving, serving, and following Jesus, what am I willing to p_____ risk, and why am I willing to risk it?
- Note Matthew 10:37-39

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.

Perhaps your next step is to join the launch team for the Sauk Rapids campus! Use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Everyday Epaphroditus”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Gambling isn't portrayed positively in the Bible...

So how can it...be something praiseworthy in the life of an ordinary person named Epaphroditus (name means “handsome, charming”)?

1. Who Was Epaphroditus?

He was a significant leader in the Philippian Church.

Note Philippians 2:25

A significant part of the Philippian's gift was Epaphroditus himself!

- A. True brother
- B. Co-worker
- C. Fellow Soldier
- D. Your messenger = “apostle” = “sent one”
- E. Help or minister = “leitourgos” = “liturgy” - ...a public-spirited citizen who out of his own resources rendered some conspicuous service to the community. (Rees)

2. What Was Epaphroditus Gambling?

He was gambling his life (note Philippians 2:30b).

During his ministry with Paul, he became very ill (note Philippians 2:26-27).

3. Why Was Epaphroditus Gambling?

He was willing to risk his life for the work of Jesus (note Philippians 2:29-30).

Such a word brings its own challenge and rebuke to an easy-going Christianity which makes no stern demands, and calls for no limits of self-denying, self-effacing sacrifice. Here is a man who gave little thought to personal comfort and safety in order to discharge his responsibility (Martin).

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