

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Joy in Admiration – Philippians 2:19-30

1. Can you think of plans you have made which you thought God approved of that didn't come to pass?
2. Read *Philippians 2:19-24*. What is Paul's reason for wanting to send Timothy?
3. Why is he planning to send him 'soon' and not 'now'? (v19,23)
4. Paul uses the phrase, 'in the Lord' twice in this short passage. What does he mean by it? Does it make his hope more or less certain?
5. What sort of hope is Paul talking about? What's the difference for Paul between hoping and planning?
6. What are the sorts of things that you are currently hoping/planning for? (Think long and short term). What does it mean to hope for them in the Lord?
7. Read *Philippians 2:25-30*. How is the sending of Epaphroditus different to the sending of Timothy? (v25)
8. Why was Epaphroditus with Paul?
9. How did God have mercy on Paul and on Epaphroditus? What does this tell us about Christian ministry?
10. Where is the joy in this passage? How is the gospel of Jesus bringing joy to these three men and to the Philippians?
11. How should doing Jesus work affect our relationships? (particularly with those who we do Jesus work with) Is this your experience?
12. Why was Epaphroditus ill? Why did Epaphroditus get better? Should people who are doing God's work expect to be spared from sickness and disease?
13. The Philippians are told to 'honor such men'. What does it look like to honor someone who has worked hard for the Lord? How do we do this?