

# TCC

## Weekly Bible Study

### **Philemon** | *Philemon 1-25*

May 12, 2021

#### **Intro:**

*Paul wrote Philemon around 62 A.D., at the same time as Colossians and Ephesians, while he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul typically writes to churches, but writes Philemon to a person (named Philemon). Paul writes this letter interceding for a man named Onesimus who was a runaway slave of Philemon's, but has met Paul and now is a believer in Jesus. Onesimus would delivered the letter to Philemon.*

#### **Read Philemon 1-25.**

- Who is Paul writing to? What kind of tone is he using? What is the overall message Paul is trying to convey?

#### **The Greeting**

- Looking back at verses 1-7. What stands out to you? Why?
- Does this greeting look familiar? Why do you think he begins this letter (and many others) with this greeting?
- Considering Paul has never met Philemon personally. Why do you think he can say he is “comforted” and “refreshed” by him?

#### **Paul's Appeal to Philemon**

- Looking back at verses 8-16, what stands out to you? Why?
- Why does Paul choose to appeal to Philemon instead of demanding him to take Onesimus back?
- What do you think Paul means in verse 11?
- How does Paul feel about Onesimus? What is Paul asking Philemon to do? Would this be a big deal? Why?

#### **Expectation of Reconciliation**

- Looking back at verses 17-20, what stands out to you? Why? If you were Philemon, how would you be feeling at this point in reading the letter?
- How do these verses remind us of what Jesus has done in our lives?
- What is the importance of Paul paying any debt Onesimus may owe to Philemon? How does this point us to Jesus? What does this tell you about God?

## Conclusion

- Looking back at verses 21-25, what stands out to you? Why?
- How can Paul be so confident in what Philemon will do? What role does the Holy Spirit play?
  - How are we like Onesimus before Christ saves us? (*Slaves to sin, useless, running away*)
- What can we learn God through this letter?

## Mission Focus

What role does reconciliation and forgiveness play in being able to share the gospel?

What are some practical ways we can remember how we have been reconciled through Jesus? How can that influence the way we share the gospel?

## Kids Study

Tell the story of Philemon. Consider using this resource: <https://www.gospelproject.com/pauls-letter-to-philemon/>.

Read Philemon 17-20.

## Ask:

- How do these verses remind you of Jesus?
- Why is it important to be forgiving? Does forgiveness help us share the gospel?
- Do you need forgiveness? What are some ways you can show forgiveness to others?

**Activity:** *Forgiveness Craft.* *Supplies needed, printed templates, paper hands, scissors, glue, crayons or markers, googly eyes.* *Directions: Have the kids color the body parts, trace their hands on a separate sheet of paper, cut out all pieces, and glue together. Fold the arms so that the hands cover the heart.*