



INTRODUCTION: Philemon 8-14

Philemon is a personal letter in which Paul seeks to reconcile Philemon to his runaway slave Onesimus. It has been called a tract on how to live out the Christian life within the Christian Community.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as a tool that best fits the needs of your small group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- What was a takeaway from Freedom Sunday?
- Is injustice a compelling issue to you? Does it motivate action? Why or why not?

REVIEW

- Have someone read **The Whole book of Philemon!**
- Why doesn't Paul command Philemon to release Onesimus (**v8**)? What's the difference between power and influence? Which does Christianity wield more effectively?
- How does Jesus make us useful (**v11**)?
- How is the story of Onesimus like the story of the Prodigal Son? How is it different?

APPLICATION

- Do you think slavery in the Roman world was evil? Discuss.
- Why do you think Paul sent Onesimus home? Why not just keep him?
- Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the needs in the world? How should you respond?
- What can you/your community group do for the cause of justice?
- Why is social justice such a divisive topic in the church today?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?