

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How did Onesimus change after he met Paul?
- Why is it sometimes hard to forgive people who have wronged us?
- How have you been forgiven? How do you feel when someone forgives you?



Paul's Letter to Philemon

Philemon 8-22

MAIN POINT: PAUL TOLD PHILEMON TO FORGIVE HIS SERVANT AS A CHRISTIAN BROTHER.

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he met a man named Onesimus. Onesimus was a servant. He had run away from his owner, Philemon.

Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus, and Onesimus believed in Jesus. Paul knew Onesimus needed to go back to Philemon and ask for forgiveness. So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take the letter back to Philemon.

"Dear Philemon, I want you to do the right thing. I met Onesimus and told him about Jesus, and he believed.

"Maybe this is why he left you for a little while—so that he could come back to you as a brother instead of a servant. He is our friend and brother in Christ. Please welcome him like you would welcome me. If he owes you anything, I will pay it."

Christ Connection: Paul offered to pay Onesimus's debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and man. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He paid our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed by God.

FOLD

A Way Back

Find the path from Onesimus back to Philemon.

START

FINISH

Forgiven and Free

Unscramble the letters to fill in the missing words.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. EMNLHIOP | 4. iMHUNTENPS |
| 2. HBRROET | 5. DTEB |
| 3. AECPE | 6. EGVOFNRI |

PAUL ENCOURAGED _____ 1. TO FORGIVE ONESIMUS AND
TREAT HIM AS A _____ 2. IN CHRIST. PAUL OFFERED TO PAY
ONESIMUS' DEBT TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN HIM AND PHILEMON. IN THIS
WAY, PAUL ACTED LIKE JESUS, WHO MAKES _____ 3.
BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. JESUS TOOK THE _____ 4. WE
DESERVE FOR OUR SIN, PAYING OUR _____ 5. SO THAT WE CAN
BE _____ 6. AND WELCOMED BY GOD.