

## Philemon

**Paul writes this letter to a prominent slave owner by the name of Philemon on behalf of a runaway slave, Onesimus. While it may be written to an individual, it is also addressed to a family and a church (v.2). Philemon is a beloved brother and fellow worker of the Lord. It is not known how Paul met Philemon but the one thing they had in common was their salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Onesimus, the one who was once a deserter, thief, and formerly a worthless slave, is now the slave owner's brother in Christ. Paul, with much tact and tenderness, asks Philemon to forgive and take Onesimus back just as he would receive him, as a brother in Christ. Paul promises that whatever debt is owed by Onesimus he would pay. It appears that Onesimus had robbed his master and fled to Rome in an attempt to hide out among the crowd. Instead he ran into Paul who was a prisoner at the time.**

**The apostle Paul is confident that Philemon would gladly receive his new found brother back into his care. And while Onesimus would still be a slave he would be treated as a fellow believer in Christ.**



**Greetings:**

**Philemon 1-3**

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**Paul's Prayer:**

**Vv. 4-7**

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**Paul's Plea for Onesimus:**

**Vv. 8-16**

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**Philemon's Obedience is Encouraged:**

**Vv. 17-22**

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**Farewell:**

**Vv. 23-25**

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**Small Group Discussion:**

- 1. Is it hard to forgive someone who has done you wrong and what does Jesus teach concerning forgiveness (Matthew 18: 21-35)?**
- 2. Discuss something's that one might have a hard time forgiving someone of.**
- 3. How can we help one another in the process of forgiving?**
- 4. Should we treat those we forgive any different from those who have done us no wrong? Why or why not?**

**Next Week's Lesson:**

**2 John**