



Lesson 1

“Paul, A Prisoner of Christ Jesus”
Philemon 1–3

DAY 1

PRAY: As you spend time in His word today, pray Psalm 119:130—*The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.* Ask the Holy Spirit to shed light on God’s word and give you understanding.

READ: Philemon 1–3

WRITE:

In verse 1, what does Paul identify himself as?

APPLY:

As a prisoner in Rome, Paul disregards his own personal discomfort choosing not to see his physical chains as a hindrance to what God had called him to do. Think about the physical chains that you might bear such as health challenges, difficult relationships, etc. How can you like Paul persevere and continue to follow the call God has on your life despite your chains? (See Galatians 2:20-21 & Acts 20:24) _____

DAY 2

PRAY: As you seek the Lord today, pray Psalm 119:2—*Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!* Ask the Lord to help you keep His testimonies and to seek Him with your whole heart.

READ: Philemon 1–3

WRITE:

Paul mentions several others who labored faithfully together with him in verses 1 & 2. Write how he describes them.

- a. Timothy: _____
- b. Philemon: _____, _____
- c. Apphia: _____
- d. Archippus: _____

APPLY:

Paul surrounded his life with fellow brothers and sisters who served the Lord together. He chose to refer to them as family members. Our labor in the Lord and discipleship happens in the context of family. Consider a sister in the Lord that you can come alongside and encourage and reach out to her this week?

DAY 3

PRAY: Psalm 119:18—*Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.*

READ: Philemon 1–3

WRITE:

Paul refers to Philemon as his “fellow laborer.” When we labor together with other saints, our burdens grow lighter and our joys are multiplied. What are the benefits of serving together? (See Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) _____

APPLY:

We labor together with others in the body of Christ by using the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. From 1 Corinthians 12:4-14 list the gifts mentioned. Now ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what gifts you have and how you can use them to come alongside others in the body to glorify God. _____

DAY 4

PRAY: Psalm 119:24—*Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.*

READ: Philemon 1–3

WRITE:

1. Paul calls Archippus a “fellow soldier.” That’s what each of us are as we do the work of the Lord. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Who is our fight against and what are the spiritual weapons God has provided for us? _____

2. As soldiers together, instead of fighting each other, what battle are we to fight in? (See 1 Timothy 6:12) _____

APPLY:

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-4. If you’re a believer living in this world, it doesn’t take long for you to realize that you are in a day-to-day battle. Pause for a moment and think about areas that you personally get entangled in. Relinquish those areas in prayer and ask God for His help to be a good soldier.

ON ANOTHER DAY THIS WEEK REFLECT ON OUR LIFE PRINCIPLE

This week we will talk about principle “I” . . . I = Investing in Relationships.

In Philemon verse 3, Paul opens his letter extending the grace and peace of God to those he is writing to. Pause and consider how God’s grace and peace has impacted your life. Now pray and ask God to help you extend this same grace and peace to others.

