



### Lesson 3

“The Loving Appeal and Challenge to Change”

Philemon 8–10

#### DAY 1

**PRAY:** Psalm 119:103. Time spent in God’s Word is not an unpleasant duty, but a sweet experience. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to taste and see the Lord and His goodness today.

**READ:** Philemon 1–25

Start off today by once again reading the entire book of Philemon. As you do, keep in mind that our Christian lives are lived out in community with others. God will often intertwine our lives in such a way that others can see the gospel truth lived out in each one of us—that’s exactly what He did with those in the book of Philemon!

**WRITE:**

1. On what basis does Paul make his appeal to Philemon? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul has expressed his love for Philemon and also expresses his love for Onesimus in referring to him with the endearing title of “my son.” Paul now makes this loving appeal based on the love he has seen Philemon walk in. Paul’s appeal for love is for Philemon to forgive and restore Onesimus, a runaway slave who had caused offense.  
According to Colossians 3:12–14, why are we called to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLY:**

Carefully reflect and examine your own heart and ask yourself, do I fully understand how His forgiveness of me and my forgiveness of others are united? Am I a living example of redeeming love in forgiving others in the way Christ forgave me? Who do I need to forgive and what characteristics and actions do I need to reveal to others in the way I forgive?

## DAY 2

PRAY: Psalm 119:105. God's Word has the power to make your steps clear. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine His light on you as you read the Word today, and to direct your ways on His path.

READ: Philemon 8–10

WRITE:

Paul's faithful example over his years goes before his appeal to Philemon. It is a very important part of how he has disciplined these men. Read 1 Timothy 4:12–16. What do these verses say about setting a faithful example in our discipleship of others? \_\_\_\_\_

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APPLY:

Pray and ask the Lord to show you one thing He wants you to focus on in order to be a faithful example to those in your life.

## DAY 3

PRAY: Psalm 119:107. Perhaps you find yourself going through a lot right now. Look to God's Word today for perspective and to revive you.

READ: Philemon 8–10

WRITE:

While in his chains, Paul ministered to Onesimus and begot him as a son. Discipling others is to be done in the context of family. When we come alongside another believer to help them grow, they are not a project or a problem but a beloved family member. What can you note about how Paul treats those he disciplines from the verses below?

1 Corinthians 4:14-17: \_\_\_\_\_

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Philippians 1:3–8: \_\_\_\_\_

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APPLY:

In discipling others, we challenge them to change and to grow in their walk of faith. At the same time, we ourselves are challenged to change by those discipling us and even by those we disciple. ("As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend," Proverbs 27:17 NLT). How have you been challenged to change as you follow the way of Christ?

**DAY 4**

PRAY: Psalm 119:114. The Word is your refuge in troubled times. Pray that you will learn to run often to it and find strength, peace, hope, and all else that Jesus offers you.

READ: Philemon 8–10

WRITE:

The goal of discipleship is to challenge people to change and become more like Jesus. That was Paul’s challenge to both Philemon and Onesimus. How do the following verses challenge you to change?

2 Peter 3:18: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:8–15: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:1-2: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPLY:

Choose one area from the scriptures above in which you were challenged to change and commit to praying for this in the week ahead.

**ON ANOTHER DAY THIS WEEK REFLECT ON OUR LIFE PRINCIPLE**

This week we will talk about principle “E” . . . E = Engaging Your World

“ . . . I was in prison and you came to me” (Matthew 25:36). Paul finds himself in prison and God sends Onesimus into his life to encourage him. The prisons in L.A. County are full of lonely, desperate people. Take time right now and ask the Holy Spirit how to pray for them. Ask that their eyes and hearts be open to the gospel and that they may find life and hope in Him.

