



Lesson 5
“God’s Redemptive Work”
Philemon 14–17

DAY 1

PRAY: Read Psalm 119:68. Praise the Lord for the good, good Father He is and ask Him to continue, by His Spirit, to teach you His Word.

READ: Philemon 14–17

WRITE:

1. From 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, what do you think it looks like to be a disciple of Christ? _____

2. Even though Paul could have used his position and authority to tell Philemon what to do, he chose instead to let Philemon be led by a higher law. From the scriptures below, what do you think that law was?

Matthew 22:34–37: _____

Matthew 22:38–40: _____

APPLY:

Jesus never forced people to follow Him—He led by example. Paul knew that and that’s why he didn’t force Philemon to do anything. What can we learn from Jesus’ example in John 13:1–17 about voluntarily serving others? How can we practically apply Jesus’ example in our culture today?

DAY 2

PRAY: Psalm 119:72. Begin today with heartfelt praise. Declare to the Lord in your own words how valuable His Word is to you.

READ: Philemon 14–17

WRITE:

1. Paul chose to look beyond the circumstances to see God's redemptive hand in the situation with Onesimus and Philemon. He knew that despite the problem at hand, God was in complete control. How will the scriptures below help you when you find yourself in circumstances out of your control?

Romans 8:28: _____

Romans 8:29–34: _____

2. Never come into discipleship with your own agenda! Instead, seek after the Lord's heart and let Him show you what to do. What do the scriptures below teach you about trusting God and following His leading?

Proverbs 16:9: _____

Isaiah 55:9: _____

APPLY:

We must learn to see God's hand in all that touches our lives. What we see as the law God sees differently and uses that very circumstance in a redemptive way. Take time to read the story of Joseph found in Genesis 45. (Or for a challenge, read Genesis 37–45!) Then write out Genesis 50:20 on an index card and memorize it.

DAY 3

PRAY: Psalm 119:73. God has made you for the purpose of bringing Him glory. Pray that He will give you a teachable spirit so you can learn and follow His ways.

READ: Philemon 14–17

WRITE:

Onesimus ran away as a slave but was returning as a beloved brother and a free man. That's the transforming power of the Gospel at work! According to the following scriptures, what does the transformed life look like for us?

Romans 8:13-14: _____

Ephesians 2:13: _____

Ephesians 4:22–24: _____

APPLY:

What one area of your life has God transformed the most since you became a believer?

DAY 4

PRAY: Psalm 119:77. Pray that as you read and study the Word of God today that it will bring great delight to you!

READ: Philemon 14–17

WRITE:

1. How was Paul wanting Philemon to receive Onesimus? (v. 17) _____

2. Philemon is an epistle that has several people involved: Paul, the apostle; Timothy his helper; Onesimus, a former slave; and Philemon, a slave owner. What can we learn about dealing with a variety of people from Galatians 3:26–28? _____

APPLY:

Paul had disciples both Philemon and Onesimus and they had developed a sense of trust in their relationship with each other. How will the verses below guide you in your relationships as you learn to interact and trust others?

James 1:5: _____

Psalm 32:8: _____

Isaiah 41:10: _____

ON ANOTHER DAY THIS WEEK REFLECT ON OUR LIFE PRINCIPLE

Focus on our L.I.F.E. principle “I” . . . I = Investing in Relationships

One of the last things Jesus said to His disciples before His ascension was the command to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Discipleship involves actively pouring our lives into others and training them. This means we must learn to take risks with people. Paul did exactly this with the once runaway slave Onesimus. Who is the Lord calling you to invest your life into? Write their name here _____ and start by praying for them and how the Lord will direct you regarding the next steps to take.

