



Lesson 6

"Following the Way of Christ"

Philemon 18–25

DAY 1

PRAY: Psalm 119:89. The Word of God is absolutely true and reliable! Take time today to thank the Lord for His eternal Word that never changes.

READ: Philemon 1–25

This week we will once again take time to read through the entire book of Philemon. God's Word is powerful; and no matter how many times we read it, we can glean new and wonderful insights. So, take your time and pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see things you have not seen so far in our study of this powerful book.

WRITE:

Onesimus has a debt and Paul tells his friend Philemon to put that bill on his account. In other words, Onesimus' debt is paid in full! From the scriptures below, how does that relate to what Jesus has done for you and for every sinner who receives Him?

Romans 3:23–25: _____

Romans 4:8: _____

APPLY:

I had a debt I could not pay, He paid the debt He did not owe, I needed someone, to wash my sins away. And now I sing a brand new song, "Amazing grace" all day long, Christ Jesus paid the debt, that I could never pay. - Hymn

After reading this hymn, ask yourself if you are still trying to pay a debt that has already been paid for you? Instead, pause and pray thanking Him for paying the debt you could never have paid.

DAY 2

PRAY: Psalm 119:93. Pray that your mind will be quickened in His Word and that you will not forget any of what you study this week.

READ: Philemon 18–21

WRITE:

1. Paul believed in making things right wherever possible. What can we learn from Zacchaeus in Luke 19:8–10 that confirms this thought? _____

2. Onesimus was a runaway slave. God is no stranger to our tendency to run. We run from our problems, our heartaches, our responsibilities, from fear, guilt, and anything else we don't want to face. What does Psalm 139:7–12 teach us about running from the Lord? _____

APPLY:

God in His marvelous grace wants us to run to Him in our trials and hardships—that's exactly what Zacchaeus did. Not only did Zacchaeus run to God, but he was diligent to clear himself and make what was wrong in his life right. How would you apply this Zacchaeus principle in your own life?

"Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right." 2 Corinthians 7:11 (NLT)

DAY 3

PRAY: Psalm 119:97. The Lord loves to hear your praise! Take time to declare all that you love about Him and His Word before you begin this study guide today.

READ: Philemon 18–21

WRITE:

1. How will Philemon's forgiveness of Onesimus affect Paul? (v. 20) _____

2. The Gospel is a gospel of reconciliation. Not only did Jesus reconcile us to Himself, but according to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, what ministry are we now called to do as we follow His example? _____

APPLY:

Make reconciliation a personal goal of yours and as you do, ask yourself where in my life does reconciliation need to happen?

DAY 4

PRAY: Psalm 119:98. Pray for wisdom as you study today so that you will receive and comprehend the truth that is found in God's Word.

READ: Philemon 18–21

WRITE:

1. Paul had great confidence in Philemon's obedience. What do you think was the "more" that Paul was anticipating from Philemon regarding this slave? (v. 21) _____

2. The goal of discipleship is to help people follow Jesus. Look at how many people Paul had influenced (v. 23-24). Remember, God has saved us not to be isolated and by ourselves, but in community. Read 2 Timothy 2:2 for insight as to why Paul took the time to invest into others. What did you learn? _____

APPLY:

Paul closes his letter with the reminder of the grace we have all been given. There is grace available at the throne of grace from the God of all grace, so lift up your eyes of faith and do for others what He has done for you! Pray that you will be willing to extend grace to help a brother or sister walking through the journey of repentance and restoration. Have confidence in the process of God's amazing grace.

ON ANOTHER DAY THIS WEEK REFLECT ON OUR LIFE PRINCIPLE

Focus on our L.I.F.E. principle "F" . . . F = Following The Way of Christ

Onesimus holds in his hand a letter that reads, "if he owes you anything put that on my account." Does that remind you of anyone? One day our great Savior will stand before you and say to our Heavenly Father, "If she has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account and I will pay it for her." What an amazing example Jesus has given us to follow. Now as we close out our study of Philemon, let us commit to following that very same example and go and make disciples!

