

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the Message. NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Read verses 1-7 that lead to the "Therefore" of verse 8. Paul is thankful for Philemon, prays for him, acknowledges his love and faith toward God and the saints, wants his witness to be effective, acknowledges that the good things in his life are all from Christ Jesus, tells him that he takes great joy & comfort in his love because the hearts of the saints are refreshed and calls him brother.

1. Verses 8 and 9. By what authority could Paul have commanded Philemon what to do?
A. Paul had God given authority in the church; he could have judged the situation and demanded the correct action.
2. What did Paul do instead of exerting his authority? **A.** He appealed to Philemon "for love's sake." Paul loved both Philemon & Onesimus (meaning useful or profitable).
3. What was Paul's ultimate desire? **A.** Reconciliation of Philemon and Onesimus.
4. What might have been the response of Philemon if Paul commanded him to welcome back Onesimus as a brother? **A.** Resentment. What is the cause of resentment within the church?
A. The servants of God misusing their authority or title as overseers.
5. What might be missing from a person in authority's point of view? **A.** Awareness of the truth of the situation or may be missing important facts. "Sitting on the sidelines making assumptions."
6. Describe Paul's example in the use of authority. **A.** Use it wisely. **Proverbs 16:21 and Colossians 4:5-6** What are three important things needed in order to exercise authority?
A. Prayer, wisdom & love.
7. What should we seek to be in our communications? **A.** An example of God's character because He is love. **1John 4:8 & 1John 4:16** Point: We will win more people with kindness and love than by any other means. What are we without love? **A.** **1Cor 13:1-3**
8. What is the most powerful motivator for change? **A.** Love. A person can resist force, fear, and facts, but it's hard to resist love.
9. Servants of God should be what? **A.** Humble, loving, caring. "They will know us by our love."
10. Verse 10 – Paul calls Onesimus "my son." Onesimus is still a slave, but what else is he?
A. Free in Christ from a life-changing conversion initiated by Paul while in prison.
11. Verses 11-16- What five things will believers be if our conversion is genuine? **A.** We will: 1) be changed; 2) be useful; 3) be humble; 4) make an impact; 5) make things right.
12. Verses 17-21 What two things is Paul asking Philemon to do? **A.** Forgive Onesimus for running away and remember the debt he owes Paul.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Check Prayer Requests, & pray.

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your

LIFEgroups
talk it over | week 4

discussion | study

For Love's Sake

Philemon 8-16

Pastor Ty Orr

group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>