

# **SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE The Gospel Changes Me**

## **SCRIPTURE**

Read Philemon 1:1–7

## **KEY TRUTH**

A life changed by the Gospel leads us to follow Jesus, love people, and live on mission for the Kingdom of God.

## **OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (What does the passage say?)**

- 1 How does Paul describe Philemon in verses 1–7?
- 2 What two qualities does Paul specifically mention about Philemon in verse 5?
- 3 According to verse 6, what does Paul pray for concerning Philemon’s partnership in the faith?
- 4 What effect did Philemon’s love have on other believers?
- 5 What words or phrases in this passage point to community, fellowship, or partnership among believers?

## **INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (What does the passage mean?)**

- 1 Why is the Gospel powerful enough to completely transform a person’s life?
- 2 Why do following Jesus and loving people go together?
- 3 What does it mean to become a “new creation” in Christ?
- 4 Why can people be spiritually blind before knowing Christ?
- 5 What does biblical partnership (koinonia) look like in the church?
- 6 Why does following Jesus naturally lead believers toward serving and reaching others?
- 7 Why is forgiveness and reconciliation so important in the Christian life?
- 8 What does it mean to be a “Fisher of Men” in everyday life?

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS (What does this mean for us?)**

- 1 In what ways has Jesus changed your life?
- 2 Is there an area of your life where you still need God’s transforming work?
- 3 Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus?
- 4 Is there anyone you need to forgive or reconcile with?
- 5 What would it look like for you to more intentionally make disciples where God has placed you?

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

- 1 Has the Gospel truly changed the direction of my life?
- 2 Is my faith producing love for people?
- 3 Am I holding onto bitterness, pride, or unresolved conflict?
- 4 Am I using my life, gifts, and opportunities for God's Kingdom?

## **PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK**

- 1 Spend time reading Scripture.
- 2 Pray for someone who needs Jesus.
- 3 Encourage or serve another person intentionally.
- 4 Look for opportunities to share your faith.
- 5 Reflect on how God has changed your life.

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, thank You for the power of the Gospel that changes lives. Thank You for pursuing us, forgiving us, and making us new creations in You. Help us grow in faith, deepen our love for people, and faithfully live out the mission You've given us. Teach us to walk in humility, forgiveness, unity, and boldness. Let our lives reflect Your grace and bring glory to Your name. Use us to refresh hearts, strengthen Your church, and lead others toward You.

Amen.