

# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 02



## Let's Talk

Recall a time when you helped to bring unity to a situation or a group. What was difficult in that experience? How did you feel in the end?

## Let's Study

Read Philemon 1:4-7

From these verses, what do you learn about the kind of person Philemon was?

Paul uses the word *Koinonia*, a Greek word meaning joint partnership, shared community, a close-knit fellowship. Describe what makes the unity of believers different from other types of groups you've been a part of? (think about its source, aims, views)

Discuss how the beliefs of the Gnostics oppose the gospel. They believed,

- Salvation comes only by the possession of special knowledge.
- Salvation is freedom from ignorance not freedom from sin.
- Human reason/perspective is elevated over truth (relativism.)

Read Colossians 1:9-14

In your own words summarize the main things Paul is praying for this church.

Summed up in the sermon and according to this passage, how does God provide unity to believers?

Later in Philemon, Paul will address forgiveness and reconciliation. Discuss why commitment to unity is the needed starting point.

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## Let's Apply

God is the builder of His church. Have you ever experienced others trying to make the church what they want and not what He wants it to be? What did you do about it? If you were to find yourself in that situation again, would you act differently?

What does it mean to be unified with the people in the church? Discuss ways we can foster this sense of unity?

Paul's prayers provide an example for us. Think about your own prayer life recently. Have your prayers been focused on the true spiritual needs of others or have they been focused on external things like health? What changes could you apply this week?

## Let's Pray

Dear Father God, we pray that You will help every member of the Church to live in harmony with each other. May we be united in love and enable us to pray with the mind of Christ, to be guided by the Spirit of God and to glorify You with heart and voice. Fill us with the knowledge of your will. Keep us from worldly ways, but rather may our lives be a witness of Your love, not only in what we say but in all that we do. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.