

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 03



Let's Talk

Recall a time when you struggled to forgive someone who had hurt you. What made that experience difficult for you?

Let's Study

Read Philemon 1:8-16 from two different translations.

It isn't clear how Paul met the runaway slave, called Onesimus. What is clear is how Paul felt about him at the time he wrote these words. Describe what you think must have changed in Onesimus' character since Philemon last saw him.

Even though Onesimus changed, he still broke the law. He humiliated Philemon. In your opinion did Onesimus deserve forgiveness? Why or why not?

Paul suggests Onesimus' transformation changes how Philemon should treat him. What rights is Philemon being asked to surrender? Why would this be complicated/difficult?

Why does Paul say he could give Philemon orders if he wanted to? What can be learned by this example about how Paul uses authority?

What does it mean to forgive?

Read 1 John 1:9. Why does God's forgiveness require our confession?

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Let's Apply

Pastor Jon said 'confession is agreeing with God, what he calls sin is actually sin.' A saved person can be assured of their salvation. So if that isn't in jeopardy, what danger(s) are there in having unconfessed sin?

What do you think makes you want to confess your sins to God? What holds you back?

Describe a time when recently God's forgiveness became real to you.

How could extending forgiveness heal a relationship? How might it heal the other person? How might it heal you?

Ask God if there is someone, you need to forgive. If forgiving them feels like it is going to be difficult, ask God for help.

Let's Pray

Dear Lord, I thank You for the power of forgiveness, and I choose to forgive everyone who has hurt me. Help me set [name anyone who has offended you] free and release them to You [Romans 12:19]. Help me bless those who have hurt me [Romans 12:14]. Help me walk in righteousness, peace, and joy, demonstrating Your life here on earth. I choose to be kind and compassionate, forgiving others, just as You forgave me [Ephesians 4:32]. In Jesus' name, amen.

- Debbie Przybylski