



LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER

SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

PERSON OF INTEREST

“Philemon, Onesimus, and the Power of the Gospel”

Today’s Person(s) of Interest:

1. Philemon
2. Paul
3. Onesimus

“To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house...”
Philemon 1:1-2 (ESV)

“I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.”
Philemon 1:4-7 (ESV)

“Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.”
Philemon 1:8-10 (ESV)

God is not after behavior modification, He’s after heart transformation

*“(Formerly he was **useless** to you, but now he is indeed **useful** to you and to me.)”*
Philemon 1:11 (ESV)

“but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.”
Philemon 1:14 (ESV)

*“For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. **If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.**”*
Philemon 1:15-18 (ESV)

“I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.”
Philemon 1:19 (ESV)

*“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do **even more** than I say.”*
Philemon 1:21 (ESV)

THIS IS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

Three truths about the gospel in the book of Philemon:

The First Truth: The gospel has the power to change hearts!

Have we allowed the gospel of Jesus Christ to change our hearts?

The Second Truth about the Gospel: The gospel will compel us to take risks for God!

“You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.” Deuteronomy 23:15-16 (ESV)

Have we allowed the power of the gospel to compel us to be risk takers for God?

The Third Truth about the Gospel: The gospel has the power to reconcile!

Have we allowed the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to bring extreme reconciliation in our lives?