

# Small Group Discussion Guide

(Week of May 5, 2024)

*Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer.*

I. The book of Philemon is referred to as one of Paul's *Prison Epistles*, probably written in his first imprisonment in Rome around 62 AD. Read [Acts 28:16-31](#). What stands out to you on Paul's time in Rome?

II. Now read [Philemon 1-7](#). Summarize what we learn about Philemon from this passage. Verse 6 includes a prayer of Paul. How does sharing our faith tend to build our knowledge of God?

III. Read [Philemon 8-11](#). Who is Onesimus and what has happened to him? In what ways could he have come to be useful to Paul?

IV. Read [Philemon 12-21](#). What is Paul asking Philemon to do? On what is Paul basing his request? What debt might Paul be referring to in verse 18? Finish reading [verses 22-25](#).

V. Now, why do you suppose Paul doesn't denounce slavery? Notice his instructions to slaves and masters in [Ephesians 6:5-9](#), [Titus 2:9-10](#). See also [1 Corinthians 7:20-24](#). Can we make any conclusions about slavery from these passages of Paul? Be specific.

\*Finally, what application can we draw from Paul's letter to Philemon?

*Close your group in prayer.*



**At the Church**

Wednesday at 3:30 pm  
Meets at BGCC  
Contact: Greg Maertin  
419.345.4022

**Coldwater**

Wednesday at 7:00 pm  
571 Scott Drive  
Contact: Scott Carpenter  
517.617.3376

**Bronson**

Thursday at 3:00 pm  
389 Bawden Road  
Contact: AnnaMae Wickey  
517.369.6229

**Celebrate Recovery**

Thursday at 6:30 pm  
309 West Chicago Rd  
Contact: Matt Siefken  
517.945.3309

**East Gilead**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
126 West Thompson Road  
Contact: Pastor Jim  
517.756.8001