



Greetings to all of the Kingdom Seekers and their families!

This is Mrs. Erickson here to talk with you about the book of Philemon. Philemon is a powerful and very short New Testament book that is often overlooked.

- First take the time to have your whole family open the Bible to Philemon. It is only one chapter! Twenty-five verses!
- Take turns reading the entire book together.

Facts About the book of Philemon:

Author: Paul wrote this letter from prison in Rome, or possibly Ephesus.

Recipient: Philemon, a believer in Colossae who was a slave owner. One of his slaves, Onesimus, had stolen from him and then run away, which was punishable by death according to Roman law.

Amazingly..... Onesimus, the slave and thief, becomes a Christian through Paul's ministry! Paul knows it is right to send Onesimus back to Philemon. Once Paul sets the stage in the passage describing how useful Onesimus has been to him in the ministry and proclaiming his deep love for him as a brother in the Lord, Paul pleads for Philemon to not only to forgive him and receive him back as a slave but to receive him as a dear brother in the Lord (v. 16). Paul promises to pay anything Onesimus owes Philemon. Paul lives out the gospel for his friend and brother, Onesimus.

After reading the passage and talking about it as a family, watch the Bible Project's segment on Philemon. It is very good, as many of their videos are.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/philemon/>

After the video discuss the contents and insights shared.

Application:

1. Think of a person whom you need to forgive. Discuss how Jesus would forgive and not hold a grudge. Pray for them and for your own heart.
2. Think and pray for those you can share the gospel with. While having to stay home, you could even start the conversation by writing a note or drawing a picture.

A Parent Note: When I was studying the book of Philemon I thought of the book/play "Les Miserables". Although this is for older readers/viewers and has many differences from Philemon, it still contains the same themes of love, compassion, and redemption. Philemon is of course special because it is the inerrant Word of God and points to the gospel of Jesus. It would be interesting to compare the two.

A Fun Note: New song suggestions for hand washing:

Peace like a River, Joy like a Fountain, Love like the Ocean

I've got a River of Life

Wade in the Water

A Serious Note: You are greatly missed by all of the teachers in Kingdom Seekers! We are praying for you and hope you are taking advantage of this time to read your Bible and good books, play outside, do your school work and chores with all of your might for the glory of God, and obey your parents. Pray for friends and neighbors, especially those who have great needs or are especially sad right now. Draw them a picture or make them a card. Share the gospel with those who don't know Jesus just like Paul shared with Onesimus. Forgive those who have wronged you. In this season be especially patient and compassionate with your family. Since you are together more you will have more opportunities to forgive and love one another. This is a wonderful passage our family loves and has memorized.

Romans 12: 9 – 15

9 - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil: cling to what is good.

10 – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 – Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 – Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 – Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 – Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

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(PHILEMON 1:1-25)

J F V N M V O L B B W V W P E
W U B C N Y P R I S O N E R J
S S G P E O A U O E Q U T A M
S T R V R K M S A I N T S L G
G O O E Q O K E I H N U U D O
R L C V Y W F F L E V A L S V
A M D C N A S I R I P A L Y S
C J Z N H L R U T S H D A S P
E B H C E R U P M A N P O M T
I K R C Y I I L F I B I A U W
A G K O M W R S Y F S L A B B
G H K H T W N F T B A E E H H
W G R R A H U Y B T O I N S C
S P I R I T E H D L I L T O J
A D E E S Z D R F U S D D H Y

BOLD
BROTHER
CHAINS
CHRIST
FAITH
FRIEND

GRACE
LOVE
ONESIMUS
PAUL
PHILEMON
PRAYERS

PRISONER
PROFITABLE
SAINTS
SLAVE
SPIRIT

