Philemon – Lesson 1 Workbook
Living a Life of Forgiveness

Philemon 1-7
1. What type of relationship does Paul seem to have with Philemon? What words in the text make you think that way?

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2. What types of things does Paul associate with Philemon in verse 5?

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3. Overall, would you consider Paul and Philemon to be close? On what basis?

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Philemon 8-25
1. What is it that Paul is asking Philemon to do?

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2. How did Paul meet Onesimus?

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3. What has Paul instructed Onesimus to do?

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4. How are Onesimus and Philemon related?

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5. Paul challenges Philemon to stop thinking of Onesimus as a slave and instead think of him as what?
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6. Why do you think forgiveness is so important to Paul?
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7. If someone wronged you in such a way, would you be able to forgive him or her? Why/why not?
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_________________________________________________________________________________________

8. Why do you think we sometimes hold grudges?
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**MAKING IT REAL**

1. Who are you more like in this passage? Philemon (needing to forgive), Onesimus (needing forgiveness), or Paul (acting as peace-maker)
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2. Have there been times in your life when you’ve had to forgive someone for doing a great wrong?
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_________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Have there been times in your life when you’ve needed forgiveness? For what?
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4. When was there a time when you had to make peace between two other people? How did it go?
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**Colossians 3:11-13**

1. Who is it that you still need to forgive?
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2. Are you willing to forgive them? Why/why not?

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3. Would you be willing to forgive them if they did not seek your forgiveness? Should you?

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4. What does holding a grudge against that person cost you?

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5. What if Jesus had the attitude you have?

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**Matthew 18:21-35**

1. How is the story that Jesus tells like the story of Philemon and Onesimus?

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2. How does this passage relate to your life?

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3. What do these verses say about God’s willingness to forgive us if we do not forgive others?

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4. Why is this a hard lesson?

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**Homework**

- Memorize Colossians 3:13
- Make a list of people you need to ask for forgiveness and those that you need to forgive.
- Set goals to move forward with the forgiveness process with each of the people on your list.