



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: More Than An Agreement **February 18, 2018**

Opening Questions:

- Everyone has different levels of transparency and comfortability with sharing about themselves. How transparent would you say you are generally with people and what kind of questions would fall into your own personal “You gotta know me!” circle?
- What is a time when you experienced being reconciled with someone whom you had previously hurt or been hurt by? What did God show or teach you through that process?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Philemon 1-17**... How would you describe what Philemon might have been like from what we read in these verses?
- In verse 6, what do you think Paul is wanting Philemon to deepen his understanding in?
- In what ways do you see God’s sovereignty on display in these verses?
- Why do you think Paul takes reconciliation between believers so seriously?
- What challenges do you think Philemon may have had to work through in order to forgive and be reconciled to Onesimus?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line from this week was **FORGIVENESS IS MORE THAN AN AGREEMENT...IT’S A CHANGE IN TREATMENT**. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
- Given those definitions, why do you think believers are called to not just forgiveness, but also the willingness to pursue appropriate reconciliation given their own unique circumstances?
- What have you found difficult about forgiving and pursuing reconciliation with others who have wronged you? What have you found beneficial, positive, or freeing about forgiving and reconciling with others?
- This week do you feel like God is most leading you to “go there” to help others forgive and reconcile like Paul did for Philemon and Onesimus, “forgive” like Philemon was asked to do, or “reconcile” like Onesimus did? Why do you think so?
- How would you like the group to pray for you this week?

Ask Jesus to help you truly forgive those who have offended you. Ask him to give you the humility, love, courage, and wisdom to either be a Paul, Philemon, or Onesimus to someone this week. Thank God that reconciliation with one another is made possible because He first reconciled us to himself in Christ... even while we were still sinners!