



# HTC Small Group

## *Discussion Questions*

**Sermon Title:** Reconciling the Runaway

**Sermon Date:** May 28, 2017

**Scripture:** Philemon

**Speaker:** Pastor Matt Peca

1. Growing up, have you ever thought about or actually ran away from home? If not, have you had anyone close to you run away? Discuss.
2. Look up the following verses on some people who were *runaways* in the Bible. (Gen 3:8-15; Gen 4:1-16; Gen 28:10-17; Gen 39:11-23; Exo 2:11-15, 23-24; 1 King 19:1-9; Jonah 1). What are some consistent themes found in these passages? Discuss.
3. Paul is "filled with joy and encouraged" (v.7) by Philemon's ministry in and through his home. Do you view your home as a place of ministry? Discuss.
4. How can you like Philemon, make your home more like a place of ministry? What specific people pass through your home that you may be able to minister better to?
5. Onesimus is a great picture of people running away from something or someone. If you are willing to share, what person or thing have you run away from in your past?
6. Onesimus is a slave searching for freedom, but ultimately doesn't find it until he found Jesus. Look up the following powerful verses on freedom: (Luke 4:18-19; John 8:32, 36; Acts 13:39; Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 3:17; 1 Peter 2:16-17). Which passage seems to speak to you the most and why?
7. The great irony of this letter is this - from what place does Paul share about freedom in Christ to this slave named Onesimus? In fact, Paul would typically begin his letters with "Paul an apostle of the Lord Jesus" yet how does he begin this letter?
8. What does it mean to be a "prisoner of Christ Jesus?" Discuss also (Romans 6:17-18; 22-23).
9. Some scholars read verses 17-19 and believe that Onesimus not only ran away but also stole something significant of Philemon's upon leaving. Have you ever had something significant stolen? Discuss.
10. Why do you think Paul never actually seems to condone or condemn slavery in this letter, even as he sends Onesimus back to Philemon? Discuss.