

The Reconciled are Reconcilers

Daily Verses

Sunday:	Philemon
Monday:	no assigned reading
Tuesday:	no assigned reading
Wednesday:	no assigned reading
Thursday:	no assigned reading
Friday:	no assigned reading
Saturday:	Catch Up/Free Day

Key Verse:

"Therefore if you regard me as a partner, accept him as you would me. Now if he has defrauded you of anything or owes you anything, charge what he owes to me."

Philemon v 17-18

get daily scripture texts!

text @sherwoodo to 812-671-0028

Daily Devotions

Go to socc.org/sherwood-oaks-blog for daily devotions

Pointing to Jesus

- Jesus dealt with social injustice in personal, individual ways. e.g. healing, forgiving, setting free, empowering etc. Paul uses his personal relationship with Philemon to right a social wrong.
- In context, Onesimus is not a fugitive, but a slave seeking a mediator to right his wrong toward Philemon. Jesus is our mediator. (Heb. 9:15, 12:24) He models bringing diverse individuals together.
- Jesus instructed us to get help when trying to reconcile. (Matt. 5:24-25, 18:17) Paul rejects the courts as a solution to internal disputes. (1 Cor. 6:1) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" (Matt 5:9)
- Paul's offer to pay the debt of Onesimus reminds us of Jesus giving his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)
- Christians, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, are called to be ministers of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:19-21)

Questions for Reflection & Conversation

- How is Paul's personal letter a living illustration of the atoning work of Jesus Christ?
- What is Paul's approach to social injustice in Philemon toward Onesimus?
- Do you believe that social justice will lead to conversion or conversion will lead to social justice?
- Imagine how a thief and slave might come into contact with a Messianic Jew traveling around preaching the gospel to Gentiles.
- If you looked for opportunities to reconcile individuals, families, groups and nations; where might you find them?
- What is Paul's motivation to make peace between God and people, and people with people?
- "Just as Christ did for us with the Father, so Paul does for Onesimus with Philemon. He emptied himself of his right and overcame hostility and anger with love and humility." What would it take for you to do the same?

Still have questions you would like answered? Go to socc.org/ask-bible-guy or text 812-329-2315

Family Activity

The book of Philemon is actually a letter that Paul wrote to a man named Philemon regarding Onesimus, Philemon's slave. Onesimus had run away from Philemon, and at the time it was a crime for a slave to run away from his master. While he was away, though, he met Paul and became a Christian.

Read Philemon 1:1-25. In Paul's letter to Philemon, Paul tries to encourage Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Christ instead of a slave. In fact, Paul says, "Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother." Paul recognizes that God could have been using Onesimus' crime to transform him into a coworker in Christ for Philemon.

Paul could see how God used something bad to do something good. To practice seeing like Paul, gather your family and/or friends and have them stand in a circle. Take a ball and pass it to people around the circle. When someone catches the ball, he or she shares something bad that has happened in his or her life (e.g., "My car broke down"). Then, he or she passes the ball to someone who hasn't shared. When everyone has taken a turn, the ball should be in the hands of the first person who shared. Now, pass the ball again. This time each person explains how good came out of the bad situation (e.g., "My car broke down, but I got to tell the mechanic about Jesus"). Keep passing the ball until everyone gets a turn.

Staying Current with the Series

Missed a part of the Inspired series? You can pick up missed take-home sheets at the Welcome Center or download them at socc.org/inspired/deeper.