

THE BOOK OF

# Philemon

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# You Owe Me

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who owes you something? To whom do you owe something?

## READ Philemon 1:1–25.

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### 1. What gave Paul the authority to request Philemon to forgive Onesimus?

- A. Philemon owed his eternal life to Paul.
- B. Paul had taken Christianity to Colossae where Philemon lived.
- C. Paul was an apostle (one sent) of Jesus Christ.
- D. Paul viewed Philemon as a beloved co-worker for Christ.
- E. Paul was in prison for his faith.
- F. The Colossian Church met at Philemon's house.
- G. Paul sent the runaway slave Onesimus back to Philemon.
- H. Paul was an old man by this time.
- I. Other.

### 2. Why would Philemon forgive Onesimus?

- A. He probably wouldn't.
- B. Philemon trusted God.
- C. Rome's customary treatment of slaves didn't influence Philemon.
- D. Philemon had a reputation for loving followers of Christ.
- E. Philemon owed Paul a favor.
- F. The faith Philemon had in Christ led him to be generous.
- G. Philemon was a forgiving kind of person.
- H. Only because of Paul's request.
- I. Other.

### 3. What was Paul asking of Philemon?

- A. Forgive slave Onesimus (his name means "useful") for running away.
- B. A desire within Philemon to want to forgive Onesimus.
- C. Treat Onesimus the way Philemon would treat Paul.
- D. Reinstate Onesimus as your slave in your household.
- E. Treat Onesimus better than a slave.
- F. Forgive Onesimus and then send him back to care for Paul in prison.
- G. Consider Onesimus as your brother in Christ.
- H. Payback—not what Onesimus owes you, but what you owe me/Paul.
- I. Other.

**4. Why would Paul ask this big favor from Philemon?**

- A. Philemon owed his soul to Paul.
- B. Onesimus had come to mean so much to Paul in Rome.
- C. It's what Christ asks of all believers.
- D. Returned slaves could be beat, jailed, or killed.
- E. It illustrates Christ's parable in *Matthew 18:21-35*.
- F. Philemon was so rich, one runaway slave wasn't a big deal.
- G. Christians are quick to forgive—even big wrongs.
- H. Paul was getting soft in his old age.
- I. Other.

**5. Why did Paul ask Philemon to keep a guest room ready for Paul?**

- A. This would remind Philemon of the close relationship they shared.
- B. Paul really hoped he would be set free from prison in Rome.
- C. God had revealed to Paul he would be freed from prison.
- D. This would be an answer to Paul's prayers.
- E. This would be an answer to Philemon's prayers.
- F. Paul expected to visit the church in Colossae where Philemon lived.
- G. Paul didn't have enough money to stay in a hotel.
- H. Other.

**6. What do you owe?**

- A. I owe money.
- B. Friends have done favors for me I need to repay.
- C. My life to God.
- D. My life to someone who saved my life.
- E. Forgiveness—forgiving others as much as God has forgiven me.
- F. I've taken from others, tangible and intangible things, I need to repay.
- G. I need to make up for lost time.
- H. Other.

**7. Who do you owe? How can you pay them back?**

**8. Who owes you? What would it take for you to forgive their debt?**

