

Little Letters | Philemon 1-7

February 3rd, 4th, 2024

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.

- 1) What good and bad experiences have you had with people you have employed to do work at your home? (Do not use real names....no bad mouthing)
- 2) Have you ever felt betrayed by a friend? Was there any reconciliation?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

- 1) **Read Philemon 1-7** The life transforming presence of Jesus is lived out in our relationships. What is the nature of Paul's relationship to Philemon? Who do you influence toward Jesus and who influences you?
- 2) What does it mean to extend grace and peace within the body of Christ? (at Two Rivers and in other local churches)
- 3) Paul remembered people in prayer and thanked God for them. Do you have any practices that help you remember people in prayer? When have you listened in prayer for God to bring names to the surface?
- 4) List some of the things Paul prayed for. How is that similar or different from the things you pray for as people come to mind?
- 5) The hearts of saints were refreshed by the faithful actions of Philemon. How have you been refreshed by learning of the faith of others?
- 6) **Read the greeting of Colossians 1:1-12** Colossians and Philemon were letters probably carried at the same time. (See Col. 4:7-9) The Colossian church may have met in Philemon home. How does Paul's prayer and greeting encourage unity in the church? What are some truths that they are unified around?
- 7) What phrases in Paul's prayer would you like to borrow to pray for your people?
- 8) What do you learn about the affection demonstrated within the early church? How does that challenge you? What can you do to pray and encourage folks in your family or in your group?
- 9) **Read the closing of Colossians (4:7-9)** The early church leaders were scattered across a region and still considered their relationships deep. What can you do to deepen relationships with your extended family? What about with other believers in our region?
- 10) Is there anything from these verses or from the sermon that you would like to discuss further?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.

- 1) Lord, "Who needs to hear that I love them today?"
- 2) Lord, "Who is someone investing deeply in your people that I can encourage today?"