

## Paul Appeals to Philemon



*I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,  
Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus,  
and toward all saints; That the communication of thy faith  
may become effectual by the acknowledging  
of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.  
Philemon 4-6*

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## Story 52: Philemon

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### Paul Appeals to Philemon

Timothy was with Paul when Paul wrote a **letter** to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus and the **church** in their house. Paul called Apphia a sister and Archippus a fellowlabourer. Paul addressed them with **grace** and **peace** from God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul thanked God for them and prayed for them. Paul had heard of their faith toward the Lord Jesus and their fellow saints.

Paul prayed their fellowship of **faith** would become effective. He wanted them to have the knowledge of every good thing in them for the sake of Christ. Their love brought Paul **joy** and **comfort**. The hearts of the saints were being refreshed through them.

Paul wanted to say something to them. He had the confidence that they would do what was right. Instead of ordering them to do something, he made an appeal. Paul appealed for Onesimus, who had become a child of God through Paul's ministry while they were both in prison.

Onesimus had been **useless** to them, but he had become profitable to them and to Paul. Paul was sending Onesimus back to them. Paul was sending his very heart. Paul would like to have Onesimus stay with him while in prison. But he did not want to keep Onesimus without their consent. He wanted them to be able to give to him out of a heart of love rather than by being bound to give to him.

Paul said Onesimus may have been taken from them for a short time so he could return to them for good. He would no longer be a servant, but would be a beloved brother instead. He had already been a beloved brother to Paul. Paul considered Onesimus as a partner. Paul urged them to accept Onesimus the way they would accept Paul himself.

Paul asked them to ask for repayment from himself for anything Onesimus might owe them. Paul wrote this letter with his own hand. Paul said he would repay whatever was owed. Paul wanted to be refreshed in Christ by what they would do. Paul was sure they would obey God in this matter. He was sure they would do even more than what he had asked.

Paul asked them to prepare a place for him to stay when he was allowed to come to them. Paul sent greetings from Epaphras, his fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus. He also sent greetings from Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, his fellowlabourers. Paul prayed that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with his spirit.



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QUESTIONS: Who wrote the letter of Philemon, and what is it about?  
What is Paul's request? What would be your answer, and why?

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## Lesson 52: Paul Appeals to Philemon

Passage for Study : Philemon

**DAY 1**  **ACTIVITY PAGE:** Do as many of the activities as you can.

Paul was a prisoner of Christ Jesus. Trace "prisoner of Christ Jesus."

prisoner of Christ Jesus

prisoner of Christ Jesus

Draw lines to match the following names from Philemon.

Apphia	Epaphras
Archippus	Demas
Aristarchus	Archippus
Demas	Aristarchus
Epaphras	Apphia
Luke	Timothy
Mark	Philemon
Onesimus	Paul
Paul	Onesimus
Philemon	Mark
Timothy	Luke



**DAY 2 BIBLE STORY:** Who can help you read the story? \_\_\_\_\_

Listen carefully as someone reads the passage and the story page to you this week. Be ready to tell them what you think is important about the passage and ask questions about things you do not understand. Get help with the following questions.

1. What do you think is important about the passage story?



2. How can this passage story help you grow?



**DAY 3**  **BIBLE VERSE:** Philemon 4-6

I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.




**DAY 4**  **SENTENCE BLANKS:** Please fill in the missing letters.

1. Paul wrote to \_\_\_ hilemon, Apphia, Archippus and the \_\_\_ hurch in their house. (Phlm. 1)

2. Paul thanked God for their \_\_\_ ove and \_\_\_ aith toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints. (Phlm. 4-5)

3. For the sake of love, Paul \_\_\_ eseeched Philemon for \_\_\_ nesimus. (Phlm. 9-10)

4. Paul's \_\_\_ ellow \_\_\_ labourers were Epaphras, \_\_\_ ark, Aristarchus, Demas and \_\_\_ uke. (Phlm. 23-24)

**DAY 5**  **THINK, TALK, DO:** What do you think; who can you talk with; what will you do?

1. From this passage, what points would you include in an appeal?
2. How would you respond to Paul's appeal in this letter, and why?
3. When do you need to use an appeal, and how will you approach it?
4. What questions does Philemon bring to your mind?