

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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Philemon

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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.



QUESTIONS:	Who wrote the letter of Philemon, and what is it about? What is Paul's request? What would be your answer, and why?
PRAYER:	Father, thank you for showing us how to make an appeal.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lesson 52

Paul Appeals to Philemon

PASSAGE:	Philemon
VERSE:	Phlm. 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.
SONGS:	"Amazing Grace," "Day by Day," "Father, I Adore You"
ACTIVITIES:	<p>Paul's Letters: Review the names of Paul's letters by matching and saying them. Help the children find one or two of them in their Bibles. SAY: In Colosse Philemon received a letter from Paul about Onesimus.</p> <p>Map Obstacle Course: Follow an obstacle course from Colossae to Rome and back. SAY: Onesimus ran away and went to Rome. Paul sent Onesimus back to Colossae with Tychicus.</p> <p>Church Structures: Have the children look at pictures of churches. SAY: Talk about how Philemon had a church meeting in his house.</p> <p>Act It Out: Have the children act out the parts of the people in this book. SAY: This book is a picture of what it means to be forgiven and to forgive.</p> <p>Thankfulness and Passage People: Have the children tell something they are thankful for. SAY: How was Paul thankful for the people in this passage: Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Onesimus, Timothy, Tychicus, Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke. Paul mentioned each of these people in the book of Philemon.</p> <p>Forgiveness: Watch for opportunities to help the children understand what forgiveness is today. SAY: God loves us. He is merciful and full of lovingkindness as well as holiness and justice.</p> <p>Exercising Soldiers: Have the children do exercises as if they were preparing to be soldiers. Paul was chained to a soldier in Rome. All the Roman guard knew why Paul was in chains. It was because of the gospel of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Letter Writing: Have the children draw a picture of something from the passage. Help them label the picture and make a letter to deliver to someone telling them about what they are learning.</p> <p>Snack: Round crackers with cheese to make faces representing people; water. Who has forgiven us much? Who do we need to forgive?</p> <p>Rest and Think: Think about how God has forgiven those who come to Him for salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.</p>