

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Use the following questions below for individual or group study. Begin in prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak during this time.

Share with the Group

How did you first hear the Gospel? What was the context and setting? What convinced you to accept it? Were there any noticeable changes it brought?

Read Acts 19:11-20:1 and consider Philemon's conversion experience

Assuming Philemon was present in Ephesus during Paul's ministry, what would he have seen and experienced?

As a gentile and a pagan, what might have challenged Philemon about Paul's message? What might have encouraged him?

As a businessman and wealthy citizen, what might have stuck out to Philemon about the consequences of the Gospel?

What might it have cost Philemon to convert and say "yes" to Jesus?

Read the Letter to Philemon

What stands out to you from the letter as a whole? Why?

What questions do you have?

Focus on verses 1-7

Who are the authors? Who are the recipients? What can we learn about them? Why does it matter and what does it teach us?

Paul uses the term "saints" or "holy ones" for Christians. Why? What is significant about it? What could we gain by recapturing this notion of Christians as saints?

What is significant about the titles used for Jesus? Do you tend to think of "Christ" and "Lord" more as names or as titles? Why is it important to remember what these titles mean?

Paul speaks of Philemon's "participation in the faith." What does this mean? How does this inform how we think of faith or belief?

Why does Paul emphasize Philemon's love?

What's the connection between Philemon's love for the saints and his faithfulness toward Jesus? Why does this matter for us?

Live It - Pastor Adam talked about embracing gratitude, being refreshing, and stepping into community. Which of these are you trying to apply and how?

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