

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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*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**

What is the biggest favor or request someone has asked of you?

Did you do it? Why or why not?

Have you ever had to ask someone to do something that you knew was both important and really difficult for them to do? What was it, and how did you ask?

### **Read the Letter to Philemon**

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

What patterns are you noticing?

What questions do you have?

How would you summarize verses 1-7 in your own words?

### **Focus on verses 8-17**

What authority does Paul have? Why could he command Philemon if he wanted?

How does Paul use his authority? What informs his decision and actions?

What does it mean that Paul appeals to Philemon on the basis of love? How do you think Philemon would have heard this and understood it?

How does Paul's appeal mirror God's appeal of love to humans through Christ?

Why does Paul use so much "family" language? How serious is he about it?

Onesimus' name means "useful" or "profitable" and was given to him as a slave. How does knowing this inform how you read verse 11?

Why does Paul send Onesimus back instead of keeping him with him?

How does Paul describe the change in Onesimus? What does this mean for how Philemon should now relate to Onesimus?

How do you see the Gospel in this passage?

### **Live It**

Pastor Adam talked about multiple ways of living out the way of love whether you are in a situation more like Paul, Philemon, or Onesimus. Who do you identify with most, and how will you take practical steps of living the way of love?

Close by reading 1Corinthians 12:31-13:8

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