



Week 1 | Grace and Peace in Christ

Icebreaker:

Who is someone in your life that encourages you in your faith, like Paul encouraged Philemon? How have they influenced you?

Read Philemon 1-3¹

- Who was this letter written to?
- What is the purpose of the letter?
- Why would Paul want this letter read to the entire church since it was primarily an appeal directly to Philemon?
 - a. In what ways can Philemon serve as a manual for addressing interpersonal conflict among Christians?
- Who are you tempted to try to please more than Jesus?
- Who are some of the “fellow workers” you have in your life?
- How do each of the terms used to identify Jesus in these verses contribute to our understanding of his person and work?
- Why does Paul refer to himself as “a prisoner of Christ Jesus”?
- Why is family imagery often used in the Scriptures to describe Christians?
- How should this picture affect the way we view and treat one another?
- Paul opens his letter with grace and peace. How can you be intentional about speaking grace and peace into your relationships this week?
- How does Paul’s approach to Philemon demonstrate humility and respect?
- How does Paul demonstrate the Gospel’s power to transform social relationships?
- How do these first three verses help us understand who we are as people?
 - a. How does this connect to what we have been talking about in January about being made in the image of God?

¹ We are going to go over verses 1-3 during our time together, but there is immense value in reading through the entire letter (vv.1-25)