



Read **Philemon v.1-3** and answer the following.

- What do these opening verses tell us about the author and his intended audience?
- While this letter is primarily addressed to Philemon, it also mentions Apphia (*likely Philemon's wife*), Archippus (*likely Philemon's son*), and the church that meets in his home. Why do you think this is? What conclusions about God's design for Christian community can we draw from this?

Read **Philemon v.4-7** and answer the following.

- Why is Paul grateful for Philemon? What reasons does he list?
- What is Paul's prayer for his friend?

Read Philemon **v.8-16** and answer the following.

- In your own words, summarize Paul's request of Philemon.
- How does Paul refer to Onesimus? Why might this kind of language have been surprising to Philemon and the church gathered in his home?
- Upon what basis does Paul make his appeal (**v.8**)? What does he want from Philemon (**v.14**)? What can you take away from Paul's approach?
- How does Paul interpret the events which lead to this letter (**v.15-16**)?

Read Philemon **v.17-25** and answer the following.

- How do you see Paul taking a risk in writing this letter? What could he potentially lose? What does he stand to gain?
- What is the significance of Paul listing the various names at the close of this letter? Explain.
- What about this short epistle most convicts you? What about it most encourages you?