

# 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group Lesson



**Session Title:** Paul's Letter to Philemon

**Bible Passage:** Philemon 8-22

**Main Point:** Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant as a Christian brother.

**Key Passage:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Big Picture Question:** How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.

**Christ Connection:** Paul offered to pay Onesimus's debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and man. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He paid our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed by God.

## The Act of Forgiveness

Materials – paper squares, paper bag, and scissors

Cut out the paper squares below and place them in a bag. Instruct them to work together in pairs and draw one real-life scenario of forgiveness out of the bag. These are things they may encounter during their day. Invite them to plan a skit showing the offense and how someone can extend forgiveness. Allow each group to act out a skit of forgiveness for the other groups. Thank everyone for their creativity and their teamwork on this activity.

(Paper squares: A sibling borrows a favorite shirt and returns it with a stain; a friend promises to meet you at the mall but never comes; a parent is unable to attend your soccer game, a friend not sharing his new gadget, someone lying to you.)

**It's not always easy to forgive in real life situations. But we can forgive others because God has forgiven us so much. Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant as a Christian brother. In forgiving someone, we show God's love to the person we forgive. When you are the person who did wrong, pray for the courage to apologize and ask forgiveness of the person you wronged. That is a great first step in restoring your relationship with the other person.**

A sibling borrows a favorite shirt and returns it with a stain

a friend promises to meet you at the mall but never comes

a parent is unable to attend your soccer game

a friend not sharing his new gadget

someone lying to you



