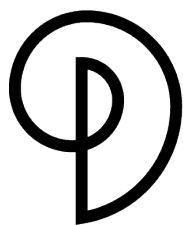
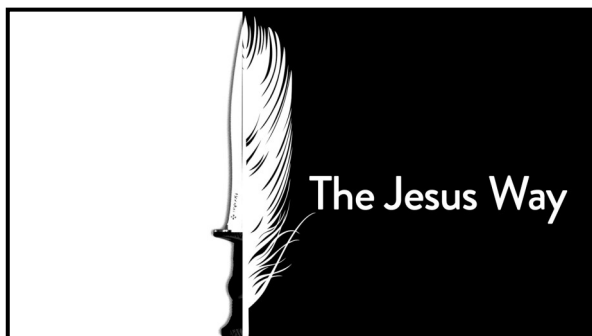


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## The Jesus Way | Good

July 27 & 28, 2024

The gospel appeals to the best parts in all of us, calling us forward into more inclusion and grace.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILEMON 1:1-25

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

It can be difficult to pull some of Paul's words forward into modern times. Sometimes it's impossible. For example, slavery was quite common then, but abhorrent now. Even so, in this letter Paul appeals to the best parts of Philemon, asking him to accept his slave as equal in the eyes of the gospel.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***Sometimes it can be a challenge to contextualize things that don't make sense to us anymore.*** Pastor Lyke shared about the process of watching a movie at home when he was a kid. What is something from your childhood that would be hard to explain to kids today? Other than slavery, the topic of this week's sermon, what are other aspects of Biblical times that can be hard to contextualize today?
- Re-read Philemon 1:10. Who has been "like a father in the faith" to you? How have they positively impacted your life? Whose life have you positively influenced as a faith model? As specifically as possible, share about some of the impactful things you have said or done as a faith model.
- ***I feel like Paul is saying to Philemon, "Forget what you used to know about Onesimus. Something's different. Don't write him off as just a slave. He's living into his identity, his name, and his calling."*** Share about a time that you discovered something new about your identity or calling. How did that change you? How did the people around you react to the "new you"? Have you ever been slow to notice or accept somebody who is living into an identity or calling in a new way? Share about that.
- Is there anyone in your life you've written off; who you've begun to treat, consciously or unconsciously, as an "extra" in the script of your life? If you were to treat them as someone of value (Onesimus-ness), how might that change your relationship with them for the better? How might you treat them with such dignity/care/attention that when they spend time with you, they feel like they've spent time with Jesus?
- Are there people in your life you've treated like a commodity - or as "less-than" - because of professional, cultural, or social hierarchy? How do you see and treat people who can do nothing for you in return? What would Jesus do?

**CHALLENGE:** Pray that the gospel - the Good News of God's relentless love and grace for you and all people - will call forward the best in YOU.