

1. To whom is this letter written? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does Paul know Philemon? \_\_\_\_\_ Does he respect Him? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What had Onesimus done? \_\_\_\_\_ Was that a serious offense? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does his becoming a Christian lessen the offense? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Paul feel about Brother Onesimus? \_\_\_\_\_
5. So why did he send Onesimus back? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Paul hope Philemon would receive Onesimus? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who wrote this letter for Paul? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did Paul think Philemon would comply with his request? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Paul ask Philemon to prepare for him? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Is there anything you need to return to and make right? \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Philemon 1:7

### Teen Thought & Tips for Teaching

Philemon had every reason to be angry. His slave, Onesimus, had stolen from him and run away. He had escaped to Rome, where he met Paul and became a believer.

Now Onesimus is returning to Philemon. Under normal circumstances, Philemon has the right to exact revenge. But these are not normal circumstances, Paul explains. Onesimus fled as a slave, he returns as a believer.

Paul doesn't ask Philemon to free Onesimus from slavery, but to free him from anger. He urges Philemon to offer grace rather than demand justice.

Does this short letter have any application for your life? It does if there is an Onesimus in your world. It does if someone has betrayed you or offended you or turned away from you. What they did wasn't right. And to demand justice is only natural, which is precisely the problem. Getting even is natural, it's not spiritual.

As you consider how to respond, consider a higher law. A law which sets all men, slave or nonslave, free.

**Additional Scriptures:** Ecc. 4: 9 & 19; Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 22:2; Acts 10:28; 20:38; Rom. 8:17; 10:12; 16:4; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:19; 3:15; James 2:5