# Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**
- Who can become part of the family of God?
- How should we treat believers?
- Why does God want us to treat one another with love?

# Brothers in Christ
## Philemon

**STORY POINT: PAUL ENCOURAGED PHILEMON TO TREAT ONESIMUS AS A BROTHER IN CHRIST.**

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he met a man named Onesimus. Onesimus was a servant. He had run away from his master, Philemon. Philemon was Paul's friend.
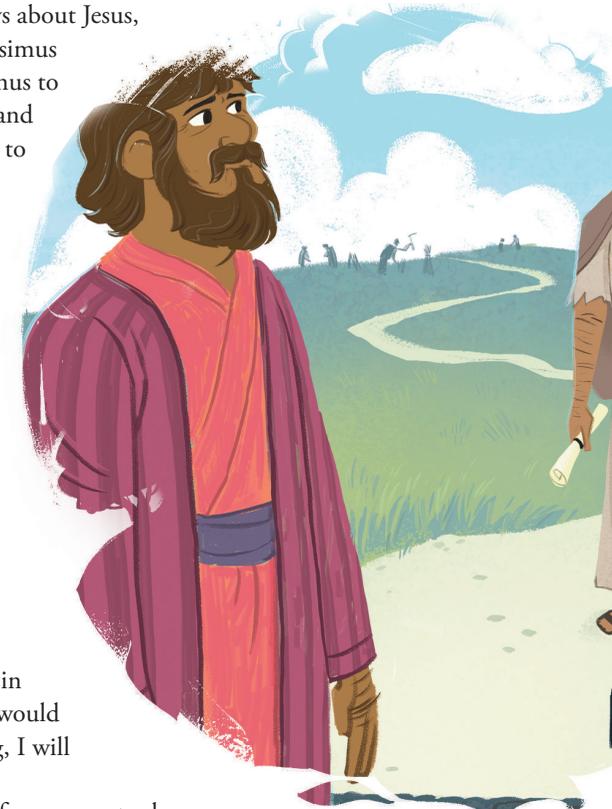
Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus, and Onesimus believed in Jesus. Onesimus helped Paul, and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him. So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take the letter back to Philemon.

Paul wrote, "Dear Philemon, I am writing to you because I love you. I want you to do the right thing. I am getting old, and I am in prison because I tell people about Jesus. I met Onesimus and told him about Jesus, and he believed. I want him to stay with me, but I want your permission first.

"Onesimus is a believer now. Maybe this is why he left you for a little while—so that he could come back to you as a brother instead of a servant. He is our friend and brother in Christ. Please welcome him like you would welcome me. If he owes you anything, I will pay it.

"Philemon, I would be so happy if you agree to do this. I know you will do what is right." Paul asked Philemon to get a room ready for him. Paul hoped to visit Philemon soon.

*Christ Connection: Paul offered to pay Onesimus' 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.*

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