



## WEEK ONE : SPIRIT-FORMED RELATIONSHIPS.

### WELCOME:

Ice Breaker Question:  
What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

### WORSHIP:

Sing, *GOOD GRACE, GOOD GOD*

**Introduction:** Last Sunday, Pastor Jon kicked off our new series on the Book of Philemon, a profound letter where the Apostle Paul reaches out to the wealthy Christian believer, Philemon to mediate on behalf of his former slave, Onesimus. The goal for this study is that we would know how to forgive as Jesus does and be agents of reconciliation as Jesus is.

### WORD: PHILEMON verses 1-7

#### Observation Questions:

1. In verses 1-3, how would you describe the mood of Paul in the opening verses?
2. In verse 1, why does Paul describe himself as a "prisoner of Christ"? What images, feelings, thoughts, or ideas does being a prisoner conjure up?
- 3) In verse 1b-2, what can you tell about Philemon? Who was he?
- 4) In verses 4-7, how does Paul describe Philemon? What qualities of Philemon do you respect and why? Are there any qualities of Philemon's leadership that strike you?
- 5) When Paul tells people what he's praying for when he thinks of them, this often gives us the clue to the inner meaning of the letter. What is Paul praying for Philemon?

#### SERMON DISCUSSION

In this opening sermon, Pastor Jon shared about the SPIRIT-FORMED RELATIONSHIP between Paul and Philemon. Pastor Jon gave the following sermon points and application:

#### 1. Paul's Prologue for Philemon (1-3):

- **The Apostle Paul's Purpose. Why?**
- **The Church's Position. What?**
- **The Gospel's Propositions. How?**

#### 2. Proper Perspective for Community (4-7):

- **The gospel calls for a distinct kind of faith.**
- **The gospel calls for a distinct kind of love.**
- **The gospel calls for a distinct kind of fellowship.**

#### Application Questions:

- 1) What was your biggest take away from last Sunday's sermon?
- 2) Pastor Jon mentioned several things that make the early Christian community distinct? Can you enumerate these distinctives and tell why they are important? Are these distinctives still present in the modern church?
- 3) Pastor Jon mentioned that our modern society teaches us to mind our own business, but by writing to Philemon, Paul tried to intervene in someone else's business. Why was Paul so greatly concerned with Philemon? What was Paul's goal? (Read Ephesians 4:3-6.)
- 4) Are you committed to live out a distinct kind of faith, love and fellowship that the Gospel calls us to? How can you grow in your commitment to Spirit-formed intentional community? What steps can we take as individuals and as a group to be the authentic Christian community the Gospel calls us to?

**WORK:** Read **COLOSSIANS 3:11-17** and pray that God will help your group and our church to live out the words of the verses.