



## WEEK TWO : TRANSFORMING LOVE.

### WELCOME:

Ice Breaker Question:  
Apart from God, who is the kindest person you've ever known?

### WORSHIP:

Sing, *Worthy*

**Introduction:** The Christian theology of forgiveness counters every cultural concept of forgiveness. In verses 8 to 16, Paul intercedes with Philemon on behalf of Onesimus and literally demands forgiveness and reconciliation. The very reason many people struggle with forgiving is the lack of a strong theology of forgiveness, which is a command and not an option Matthew 6:14-15.

### WORD: PHILEMON verses 8-16

#### Observation Questions:

1. In verses 4 to 7, Paul recounts his relationship with Philemon and values their partnership. Why do you think Paul began his imploring this way?
2. In verse 8, what does Paul say about the apostolic authority he has?
- 3) In verse 9, what power is greater than apostolic authority when it comes to forgiveness?
- 4) In verse 9, we see how Paul loves Philemon as a brother in Christ. What does Jesus say about loving others within His community? Read John 13:34-35, John 15:12-13, 1 John 4:19-21.
- 5) What can we know about Onesimus in verses 10 to 16?
- 6) Using your *holy imagination*, what do you speculate did Onesimus do to Philemon?
- 7) What does Paul ask of Philemon in verse 16?

#### SERMON DISCUSSION

In this sermon, Pastor Jon shared about the RESTORATIVE LOVE that authentic Gospel community requires of us. Pastor Jon gave the following sermon points and application:

1. A Gospel-transformed life leads with love instead of power.
2. A Gospel-transformed life transcends society's class structures.
3. A Gospel-transformed life influences every sphere of existence.
4. A Gospel-transformed life becomes aware of God's sovereignty.

#### Application Questions:

- 1) The Bible mentions slavery a few times. Does the Bible condone slavery? How did Pastor Jon explain the issue of slavery in the ancient culture?
- 2) In vv. 4-10, Paul builds on a pre-existing trust relationship with Philemon. He leads Philemon in love. What are some specific ways you can prioritize growing in leading in love instead of power?
- 3) Paul and Onesimus have established a gospel transformed relationship, where social class no longer exists. What could we learn from this?
- 4) A gospel-transformed community strives for unity and reconciliation. Why is this so important for Paul? 1 Corinthians 1:10. John 13:35.
- 5) Is there any unforgiveness that you're harboring internally? What would it look like for you to forgive and move toward reconciliation?
- 6) Read Luke 7:41-47. When forgiveness is difficult, what do we learn from the above passages?

**WORK:** Pray for love and unity amongst us.