

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

7/26/22

Philemon 1–2

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the
church in your house:

Philemon 23-24

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus,
Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

Passage Summary

The book of Philemon provides for us a snapshot of the Gospel's power to transform people and relationships. On Sunday Pastor Bernie highlighted several of the people identified in Philemon who were transformed by the power of the Gospel. In our study this week we will remind ourselves of these individuals and consider how the power of Gospel in their lives might also be reflected in ours.

Discussion Questions

Paul

Acts 9:1-19

How is the truth of the Gospel story clearly expressed in Paul's conversion testimony?

What relationships would have been transformed for Paul by the power of the Gospel?

Is your story of turning to Jesus any less powerful?

What relationships have been transformed in your life by the power of the Gospel?

Why does Jesus send Paul to Ananias?

In what ways can the transforming power of the Gospel be utilized in a church community?

Timothy, Philemon, Apphia, and Archippus

Even though there is not much information in Scripture what can we learn from these figures?

Mark

Acts 15:36–41

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Who was Mark?

What part of Mark’s story is relatable to you?

Who was correct in their assessment of Mark?

How does the power of the Gospel show itself in Mark’s life?

How has God taken conflict or what appears to be broken situations and turned them toward the Gospel advance in your life?

Who has God brought into your life that needs a second chance? To whom is God calling you to be a Barnabas?

Demas

Philemon 23-24

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

What is the cautionary tale of Demas?

How can we keep from following the path of Demas?