

CHANGING HEARTS WELS PRISON MINISTRY

GRADES 1-2

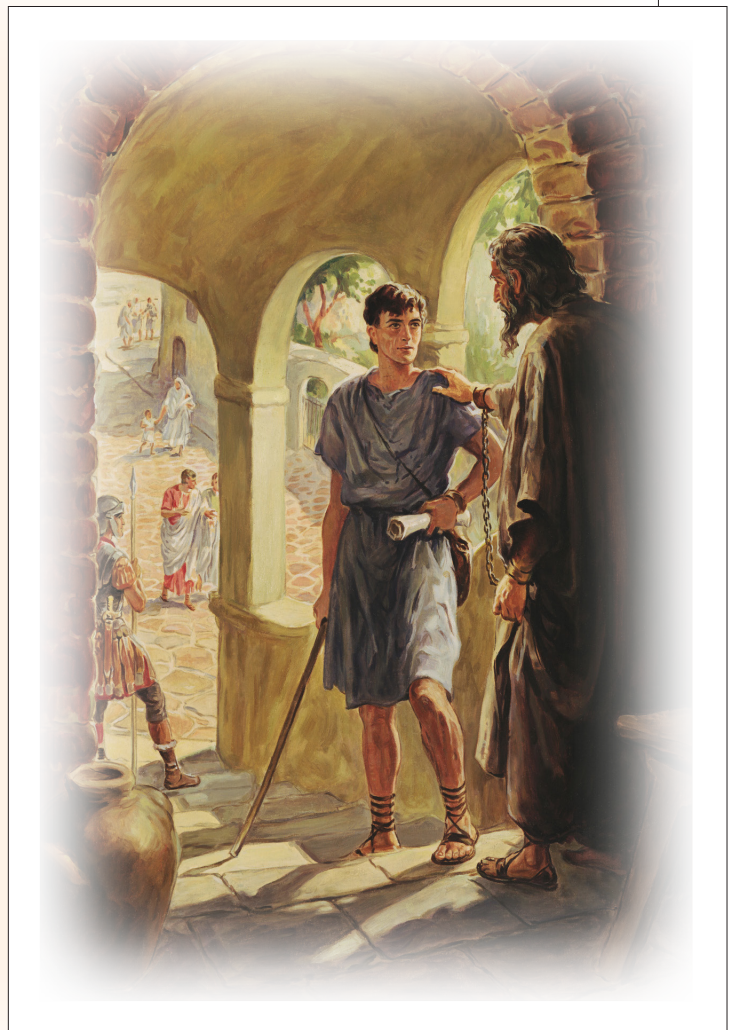
PHILEMON AND ONESIMUS

Philemon 1-25

God chose a man named Paul to follow him and to teach people about his Son Jesus. Paul had a friend named Philemon, who believed in Jesus and opened his home to others so they could learn about the Savior. Philemon had slaves who worked for him. One day one of his slaves ran away. This slave's name was Onesimus.

After running away, Onesimus found Paul. Paul told Onesimus that God loved him so much that he sent his Son Jesus to die on a cross to pay for all the wrong things he had done. Onesimus was sorry that he had run away. When he learned how much Jesus loved him, he wanted to tell Philemon he was sorry and return to him as a faithful slave.

Paul wrote a letter to his friend Philemon. In it he told Philemon that his slave Onesimus now believed in God, and he was sorry for running away. Paul asked Philemon to accept Onesimus back no longer as a slave but as a brother in Christ. Paul expected Philemon to take Onesimus back because Philemon knew God had forgiven him just like he had forgiven Onesimus.





PARENTS AND KIDS:

This lesson teaches that Paul urged his friend Philemon to love and welcome back his slave Onesimus. We thank and praise God for taking our sins away through his Son Jesus. God shows how much he loves us by forgiving us. He asks us to love and help others, including those who have sinned and wandered from God.

TO DO:

Using the letter on the next page as an example, help your child write a short letter inviting another child, who hasn't been to church or Sunday School recently (or ever), to attend. Insert the name of your church on the line. Help your child address an envelope, put a stamp on it and place it in the mailbox. Or your child can hand deliver the letter if he/she will see the child to whom it is written. Be sure to follow up with a text or phone call!

TO DO:

As a family, through role play, practice inviting someone to your church who hasn't been there for some time. Then practice welcoming them when they appear at your church.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Thank you, dear Father, for showing us your love by sending Jesus to take our sins away. Help us to show love to those who have wandered from you but have



returned by helping them and welcoming them into or back into our church family. Give us opportunities to invite them to Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church, and church activities.



MEMORY TREASURES

John 13:34

A new command I give you: love one another.

A NOTE FROM YOUR FRIEND



DEAR _____,

YOU'RE INVITED TO COME TO _____
WITH ME. WE HEAR ABOUT JESUS AND HIS GREAT
LOVE FOR US. WE SING SONGS AND PRAISE HIM FOR
ALL HE HAS DONE. WE PRAY TO JESUS. JESUS LOVES
YOU AND SO DO I!

YOUR FRIEND,



FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.

P.S. I'LL HAVE MY PARENT TEXT OR CALL YOUR
PARENT TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE A PLAN.