

## Gospel Project for Kids: COME LORD JESUS

# The God Who Gives Hope PAUL WROTE TO PHILEMON

### LESSON OVERVIEW

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**Session Title:** Paul wrote to Philemon

**Bible Passage:** Philemon 8-22

**Big Picture Question:** How do we live while waiting for Jesus to come back? We follow Jesus and tell everyone about Him.

**Main Point:** Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant.

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 1:21 “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” ESV

**Christ Connection:** Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Jesus. He wanted to make peace between his friends. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and people. He died on the cross for our sin so we can be part of God’s family forever

### TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

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*Note: This is for your reading and preparation for the lesson. It is vital that you read the scriptures, the summary and pray! The content must first impact you before you desire it to impact our kids.*

Paul was a prisoner under house arrest in Rome when a man named Onesimus (oh NESS ih muhs) came to visit him. Onesimus was a slave who had run away from a wealthy man named Philemon. As it turned out, Paul was a friend of Philemon. So when Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus and Onesimus believed, Paul desired forgiveness and reconciliation between Onesimus and Philemon—now brothers in Christ.

So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take it to Philemon. The Book of Philemon is the letter written by Paul to Philemon. Though Onesimus had become dear to him and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him in Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon with his letter.

In the letter, Paul urged Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him as a fellow brother in Christ. Paul even offered to pay Onesimus’s debt for him. Though Paul could have used his authority as an apostle of Christ to force Philemon to do what he wanted, Paul instead appealed to him as a friend and a fellow believer. He urged Philemon to treat Onesimus as if he were Paul himself—with love and kindness.

Paul offered to pay Onesimus’s debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and humanity. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin, paying our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed into God’s family as brothers and sisters of Jesus. (See Heb. 2:11.)

Paul’s letter serves as a reminder to us that everyone is equal before Jesus. People from completely different backgrounds—like Paul, a former Jewish leader; Onesimus, a runaway slave; and Philemon, a Gentile slave-owner—are brought together by the gospel under the lordship of Jesus Christ. In light of God’s love for us, we can be loving, kind, and forgiving to our brothers and sisters in Christ for the glory of God.

## THE BIBLE STORY: PAUL WROTE TO PHILEMON

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Onesimus was a servant. He had run away from his owner, Philemon. Philemon was Paul's friend. Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus, and Onesimus believed. He helped Paul, and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him. But Paul knew Onesimus needed to do the right thing: to go back to Philemon and ask for forgiveness. First, Paul wrote a letter for Onesimus to give to Philemon.

**"Dear Philemon, I am writing 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.**

"Philemon, I would be so happy if you agree to do this. I know you will do what is right. Please get a room ready for me. I know you are praying for me. I hope God will answer your prayers so I can visit you soon."

**Christ Connection:** Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Jesus. He wanted to make peace between his friends. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and people. He died on the cross for our sin so we can be part of God's family forever.

For a shorter version of the story, read only the **bold text** of the Bible Story.

## TOOLS

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- **What will be provided:**
  - N/A
- **What leaders need to Bring:**
  - N/A

## SUGGESTED ROUTINE – PRE-SCHOOL

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8.00	Arrival of Team	Check your temperature, Sanitize yourself, Setup classroom
8.15	Prayer Meeting	Everyone meet and pray in the class with the big screen.
8:30	Arrival of Children	Settle children pre activity games for primary school and blocks for preschool.
9:00	Worship	Everyone in the classroom with the big screen. (pre-school and primary school) Preschool, you will leave after worship.
9:20	Welcome	Introduce yourself and the team, big, friendly smiles😊
9:25	Lesson	Pre-school: Bible story video, Bible story review, memory verse, pray. Primary School: Big lesson, small lesson, memory verse, pray.
9:40	Outdoor Play	Go outside for playtime. Pre-school on the top half of the ground, primary school at the bottom half
10.00	Snack time	1 Biscuit and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup juice per child.
10:10	Toilet Break	Accompany children to the toilet.
10:15	Activity	This can be done indoors or outdoors.
10:30	Fetching of Children	Quiet play or dvd's until parents fetch their children.
10.35	Tidy Up	A friendly goodbye to the parents and children. Wash, wipe and pack away juice and biscuit dishes. Return stationery to the <b>Stationery Shelf</b>

Return class box to the correct shelf (**i.e. Little Lambs or Lighthouse shelf**)

Sanitise tables and chairs

Neaten up the classrooms (Pack away chairs and tables, sweep, close windows and curtains, lock doors, switch off lights).

- You are free to amend your routine after Worship. Please ensure that the children are back in the classroom by 10.30am

## SUGGESTED ROUTINE – PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8.00	Arrival of Team	Check your temperature, Sanitize yourself, Setup classroom
8.15	Prayer Meeting	Everyone meet and pray in the class with the big screen.
8:30	Arrival of Children	Facilitate pre activity games.
9:00	Worship	Everyone in the classroom with the big screen. (pre-school and primary school) Preschool will leave after worship.
9:20	Welcome and Big Group Lesson	Introduce yourself and the team, big, friendly smiles😊
9:35	Small Group Lesson	Pre-school: Bible story video, Bible story review, memory verse, pray. Primary School: Big lesson, small lesson, memory verse, pray.
10.00	Outdoor Play	Pre-school on the top half of the ground, primary school at the bottom half
10.00	Snack time	1 Biscuit and a cup of juice per child.
10:15	Activity	This can be done indoors or outdoors.
10:30	Fetching of Children	A friendly goodbye to the parents and children.
10.35	Tidy Up	Wash, wipe and pack away juice and biscuit dishes. Return stationery to the <b>Stationery Shelf</b> . Sanitise tables and chairs Neaten up the classrooms (Pack away chairs and tables, sweep, close windows and curtains, lock doors, switch off lights).

- You are free to amend your routine after Worship. Please ensure that the children are back in the classroom by 10.30am

## INTRO ACTIVITY (Primary School)

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### Play “Duck, Duck, Deliver”

Instruct children to sit in a circle. Choose one child to carry a letter and walk around the outside of the circle while saying, “Duck, duck, deliver.” When she decides to say deliver, she must give another child the letter, and then she must run away as he jumps up and tries to chase her back to his spot. He will deliver the letter in the next round.

**SAY • Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant** in a letter. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus made peace between God and people.

## WORSHIP

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- All children in the classroom
- Open in Prayer
- Celebrate and sing for birthdays.
- Worship

- Take up offering

## **WELCOME**

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- A big friendly welcome to all the children. (A lot of children arrive during worship.)
- Introduce yourself and the team to the children.
- Identify new children and welcome them.
- Class rules:
  - Raise your hand if you need to speak. Say: it is difficult for teacher to listen if everyone speaks at the same time.
  - Be kind to those around you.
  - When teacher places his/her hand on his/her head it is a signal to be quiet.

## **REVIEW**

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### **For Primary School:**

- Who wanted to kill Paul? (Jewish people and religious leaders, Acts 23:12-15)
- Why did God protect Paul from the religious leaders who wanted to kill him? (So he could preach about Jesus to more people, Acts 23:11 )
- Which rulers did Paul preach to? (Felix, Festus, and Agrippa; Acts 24–25)
- Why didn't Agrippa and Festus release Paul when they decided he was innocent? (Paul had appealed to appear before Caesar, Acts 26:32)
- What happened to Paul's boat on the way to Rome? (it was shipwrecked because of a storm, Acts 27:40-41)
- What did Paul say about dying? (Paul said that to die and be with Jesus face-to-face was a good thing; Phil. 1:23)
- What did Paul say about living? (He said that to live for the glory of Jesus was a good thing, Phil. 1:24-25)
- **When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.**
- **SAY • Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.** Jesus is the Son of God. Only Jesus is worthy of our worship because He alone is able to save us from our sin. Paul knew this was true and told others about it so that they would trust in Jesus and be saved from sin. Jesus is our source of life, hope, and peace.

### **For Preschool and Toddlers:**

- Whose servant was Onesimus? (Philemon's)
- Did Onesimus do what he was supposed to do?(No, he ran away.)
- What happened while Paul was in prison? (Paul told Onesimus about Jesus, and Onesimus became a believer.)
- What did Paul tell Onesimus he needed to do? (go home to Philemon)
- What did Paul tell Philemon to do? (**Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant.**)
- **How are we to live while waiting for Jesus to come back? We follow Jesus and tell everyone about him.**

**SAY •** Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Jesus. He wanted to make peace between his friends. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and people. He died on the cross for our sin so we can be part of God's family forever.

## ACTIVITY

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Play charades using words from the story. For each word that is guessed ask the class to explain how that word relates to the Bible story.

Suggested words:

- servant
- letter
- forgive
- pay
- run away
- friend
- love
- Jesus

SAY • Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant as a Christian brother. We are called to love and forgive others too. When people believe in Jesus, they become sons and daughters of God and brothers and sisters in Christ. If a person wrongs us or treats us badly, it can be hard to show that person love and forgiveness, but we know that Jesus forgives our sin and loves us. We can follow His example and trust the Holy Spirit to help us show love to others. How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel. Forgiving like Jesus is a great way to grow in godliness, and it's only possible when we remember the truth of the gospel!

## MEMORY VERSE

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Teach the children the memory verse and have them repeat it.

Philippians 1:21 "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." ESV

### Gods Plan for Me

Teach this to our Children weekly

- God Rules (make a crown with your hands on your head)
- We sinned (make an X with your arms)
- God Provides (make a cross with your arms)
- Jesus Gives (make a giving gesture)
- We respond (hands raised)

*Full view of God's Plan*



## PRAY

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God, thank You for inviting us to be part of Your family through Jesus. Help us to love others well this week. Help us show forgiveness when others hurt us and seek forgiveness when we hurt others. We pray that You would use us to welcome others into Your family as we share the gospel. Amen.

# the **GOSPEL** **GOD'S PLAN FOR ME**

gos·pel – noun. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



## **GOD RULES.**

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



## **WE SINNED.**

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



## **GOD PROVIDED.**

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



## **JESUS GIVES.**

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



## **WE RESPOND.**

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

