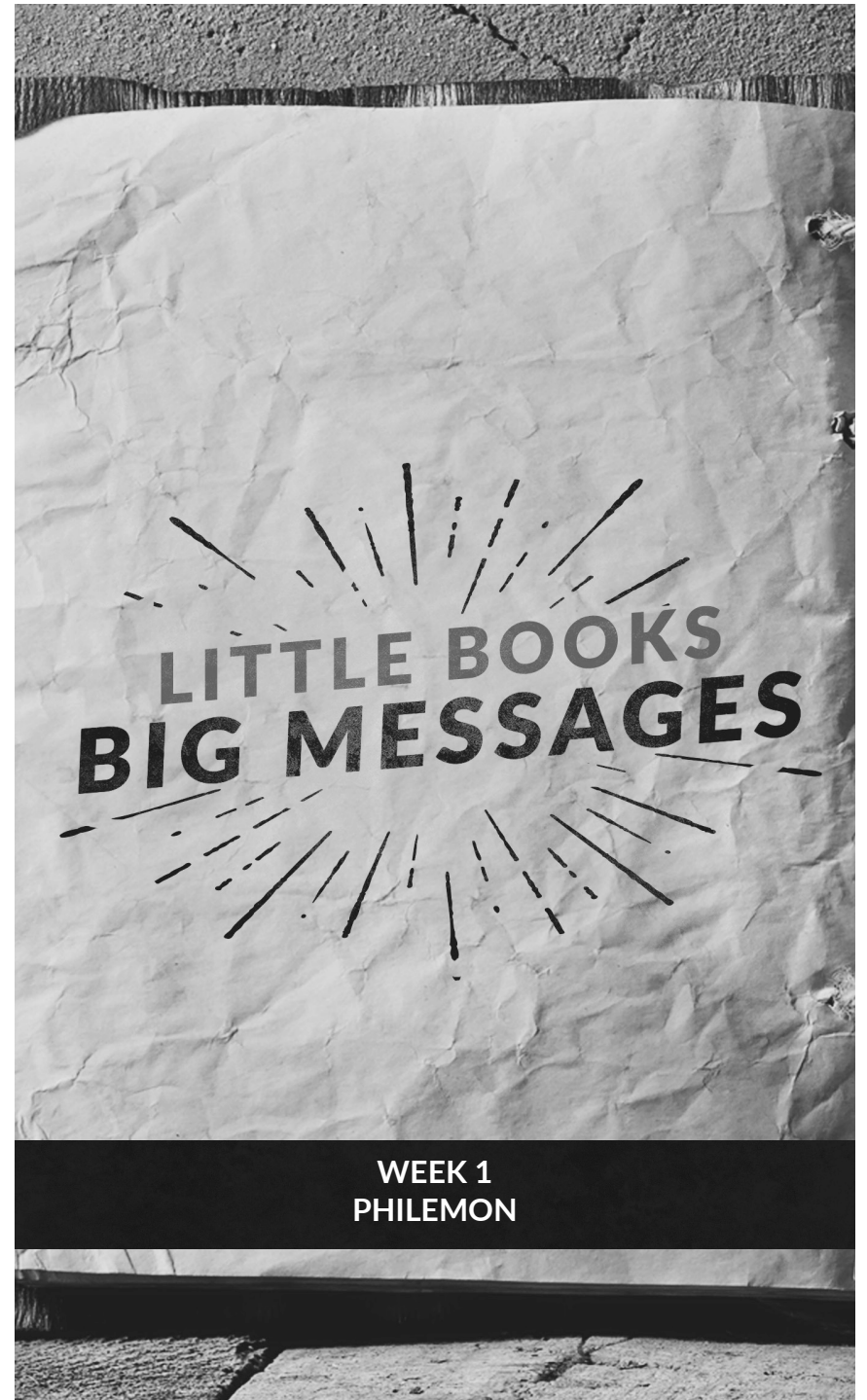


NOTES & QUOTES



CONNECT *(BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)*

1. Have you ever received a little letter or note that made a big, perhaps life-changing difference? Share.
2. In your own words, briefly explain the situation being dealt with in Paul's letter to Philemon?
3. Have you ever experienced reconciliation with someone whom you were estranged or witnessed the healing of a deep relational hurt? Was your faith a factor? Did others help/encourage?

THRIVE *(EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)*

4. Read Philemon 1-7. How would you describe the mood of these opening lines in Paul's letter? What are the specific things that Paul mentions with gratitude in his prayer for Philemon? How could this be a model for how we could pray for others, particularly our church leaders.
5. Read Philemon 8:1-14. How does Paul seek to persuade Philemon while still showing deep respect for him and trust in God to direct him? Why do you think he chooses not to use his apostolic authority but rather appeals to Philemon as a friend?
6. Onesimus was a runaway slave with no legal rights, no home, no way of getting a job and no hope at all. How does Paul identify with him and give him his stamp of approval, even calling him, "my son"? How does this response and Paul's offer in verse 18, reflect the way God deals with us?

7. Read Philemon 15-25. Where in your world (church, family, workplace, community) does reconciliation need to happen? What suggestions does Paul give to help spiritually bring about forgiveness and restoration?

COMMIT *(BE ON MISSION)*

8. Which of the qualities in Philemon (v. 4-7) do you wish that God would develop in you? How would Compass be impacted if all our people were like Philemon?
9. Does God have permission to use others to speak truth and challenge into your life? Recognizing that it requires incredible humility and courage, are you open to receiving correction? Conversely, are there people you have permission to graciously persuade in an area of faith? Is there a specific area where God has spoken/convicted, but you have been resistant?
10. When you examine your relationships, particularly those within the church, is there one where you need to extend forgiveness and work towards greater reconciliation? What is a first step you could take towards that end?

PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:18-20