



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: March 12th is National Napping Day (the day after Daylight Savings Time begins). Where is your favorite napping place and when do you catch your best nap?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom explained that, "Human relationships have always been subject to tensions, disagreements, arguing...and are often more fragile and subject to both damage and even destruction than many people realize until it's too late." What are some of the warning signs or fragile places in relationships that often get missed?
2. What was the social/cultural reality concerning slavery as Christianity began to spread in the ancient world? How could a Christian own slaves? Read 1 Corinthians 7:21; 12:13; Galatians 3:28. What are some of the principles, demonstrated in these verses, that led to the abolition of slavery in much of the Western world? What things are socially/culturally acceptable for us today, yet are contrary to God's desire for our lives? How can we live Christ-like lives in this context?
3. Read Philemon verses 8-16. Pastor Tom said, "Very ordinary people are now challenged to do right things, but the right things are often hard things." What was hard about what Paul was asking of Philemon in these verses? What does Philemon have to give up if he follows Paul's instructions? What might he gain?
4. At the end of the message Pastor Tom challenged us to look at Philemon, Onesimus, and Archippus and see with whom we identify. Who do you relate to right now? Relationally, what "right things" have you been challenged with? Are there "right things" that you know you need to do now? How can your group help you take those steps?

Personal Guide for Week of March 11th

DAY 1 - Read Ephesians 4:1-3. How have you seen the characteristics described here make a real difference in a relationship?

DAY 2 - Read Colossians 3:12-17. What is the relational goal that Paul is calling us to in this passage? How can you take steps to pursue this goal?

DAY 3 - Read Matthew 18:21-35. What is challenging about unconditional forgiveness? How does receiving unconditional forgiveness enable us to live lives where we forgive unconditionally?

DAY 4 - Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. How does this type of love look different in practice than what we often call love? How do we live the kind of love called for in this passage?

DAY 5 - Read Luke 10:35-37. How do we show mercy to those God puts in our path?



Message Notes & Small Group Discussion // Personal Guides

"Some Humdrums"

Week of March 11, 2018



“Nothing Ordinary: Some Humdrums” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Human relationships have always been subject to tensions, disagreements, _____...and are often more _____ and subject to both damage and even destruction than many people realize until it's too late.

Can ordinary people forgive when wronged and see a relationship reconciled or created into something _____ and even better than it was before?

Onesimus was a slave of Philemon who had apparently stolen from him and run away (which under _____ law was punishable by death).

How could a _____ own slaves?

1. Understanding Slavery in the _____ World

Nearly every society, culture, and ethnicity has slavery somewhere in its' _____...

In the ancient world, slavery was more than just common; it was _____.

1 of _____ people in Italy and 1 of _____ people in the Roman Empire were slaves.

“Slavery, that is complete mastery (*dominium*) of one individual over another, was so imbedded in Roman culture that slaves became almost _____ and there was certainly no feeling of injustice in this situation on the part of the rulers.

Inequality in power, freedom and the control of resources was an accepted part of life and went right back to the mythology of Jupiter overthrowing Saturn. As K. Bradley eloquently puts it, ‘_____...was not a general right but a select privilege’...Further, it was believed that the freedom of some was only possible because others were enslaved. Slavery, was therefore, not considered an _____ but a necessity by Roman citizens.” (Cartwright)

In a culture where slavery was normal, this created an interesting _____ as the Christian faith spread throughout the Roman empire.

_____ mentions “slaves” in some of His parables/teaching, i.e., “No one can serve two masters...”

Slaves and free people both attracted to Christian faith, so i _____ for Christian slaves and masters (note *Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1*).

It was the _____ of the New Testament that led to the abolition of slavery... (note *1 Corinthians 7:21; 12:13; Galatians 3:28*).

2. Understanding the Story

Note *Philemon 18,10*

Very ordinary people are now challenged to do _____ things, but the _____ things are often hard things.

Note *Philemon 8-16*

Paul is gentle (word play, “Onesimus” = “_____”, note *Philemon 11*)...but firm (note *Philemon 19-21*).

Note *Philemon 1-2*

Note *Colossians 4:7-9; 3:22-4:1; 3:11-15; 4:17*

Paul had challenged Archippus to help his Dad and Onesimus be reconciled and a whole new relationship was _____ (no longer slave/master, but brother/brother in Jesus).

Note *Philippians 4:2-3*

3. Why This Story _____

Because we live in a broken world surrounded by people (just like us) who have spiritually defective DNA, a _____ in life is that relationships will be the primary cause of stress, hurts...pain...disappointments.

Because God doesn't make anything or anyone ordinary:

- Sometimes we'll be Philemon...
- Sometimes we'll be Onesimus...
- Sometimes we'll be Archippus...
- Maybe you're in one of these 3 places today...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Some Humdrums” Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Human relationships have always been subject to tensions, disagreements, arguing...and are often more fragile and subject to both damage and even destruction than many people realize until it's too late.

Can ordinary people forgive when wronged and see a relationship reconciled or created into something new and even better than it was before?

Onesimus was a slave of Philemon who had apparently stolen from him and run away (which under Roman law was punishable by death).

How could a Christian own slaves?

1. Understanding Slavery in the Ancient World

Nearly every society, culture, and ethnicity has slavery somewhere in its past...

In ancient world, slavery was more than just common; it was normative.

1 of 3 people in Italy and 1 of 5 people in Roman Empire were slaves.

“Slavery, that is complete mastery (*dominium*) of one individual over another, was so imbedded in Roman culture that slaves became almost invisible and there was certainly no feeling of injustice in this situation on the part of the rulers. Inequality in power, freedom and the control of resources was an accepted part of life and went right back to the mythology of Jupiter overthrowing Saturn. As K. Bradley eloquently puts it, 'freedom...was not a general right but a select privilege'... Further, it was believed that the freedom of some was only possible because others were enslaved. Slavery, was, therefore, not considered an evil but a necessity by Roman citizens.” (Cartwright)

In a culture where slavery was normal, this created an interesting dynamic as the Christian faith spread throughout the Roman empire.

Jesus mentions “slaves” in some of His parables/teaching, i.e., “No one can serve two masters...”

Slaves and free people both attracted to Christian faith, so instructions for Christian slaves and masters (note Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1).

It was the principles of the New Testament that led to the abolition of slavery... (note 1 Corinthians 7:21; 12:13; Galatians 3:28).

2. Understanding the Story

Note Philemon 18, 10

Very ordinary people are now challenged to do right things, but the right things are often hard things.

Note Philemon 8-16

Paul is gentle (word play, “Onesimus” = “useful”, note Philemon 11)...but firm (note Philemon 19-21).

Note Philemon 1-2

Note Colossians 4:7-9; 3:22-4:1; 3:11-15; 4:17

Paul had challenged Archippus help his Dad and Onesimus be reconciled and a whole new relationship established (no longer slave/master but brother/brother in Jesus).

Note Philippians 4:2-3

3. Why This Story Matters

Because we live in a broken world surrounded by people (just like us) who have spiritually defective DNA, a constant in life is that relationships will be the primary cause of stress, hurts...pain...disappointments.

Because God doesn't make anything or anyone ordinary:

- Sometimes we'll be Philemon...
- Sometimes we'll be Onesimus...

- Sometimes we'll be Archippus...
- Maybe you're in one of these 3 places today...

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