

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Flint & Steel

Week 4: Teaching Them to See
Philemon 1:15-16

Week of October 2, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

In our text for this week, we find the Apostle Paul trying to get Philemon to see his situation differently. Life is transformed when we see things more accurately. A significant aspect of disciple-making is accomplished in helping our disciple to see life with a biblical perspective.

Kicking It Off: Jeff confessed killing a mouse at The Home Depot. Have you ever killed a mouse? If so, how?

Discussion:

1. Reread Philemon 1:15-16 *Perhaps the reason Onesimus was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a brother.*

How is God's activity (providence) hinted at in these verses?

2. Can you think of an example of God's providential involvement in your life recently? If so, tell the group about it.
3. Jeff suggested that the question: "What is God up to?" is a powerful tool for the disciple-maker. How is this so?
4. What is the significance of Paul's use of "Perhaps" in verse 15?

5. Reread Philemon 1:15-16 *Perhaps the reason Onesimus was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.*

Explain how Philemon's short-term loss led to a long-term gain? Can you think of another example of a short-term loss resulting in a long-term gain?

6. Reread Philemon 1:16 *Onesimus is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.*

How did Philemon's view of Onesimus need to change?

7. Every human being is of immense value to God. How could this truth impact the way you live each day?

Wrapping It Up: Ask the Lord to open your eyes to recognize his providential hand at work behind the scenes in your life.