



TRUE HOPE

GROUPS &
MENTORING

“NO ONE FINDS THEIR WAY BACK TO GOD ALONE”

Groups and Mentoring aren't about giving polished 'right answers.' They're about sharing real answers. This isn't a place to tell others how good you are at following Jesus, but where you are falling short. We want to create an environment of trust and vulnerability, where we can be honest about our struggles, knowing we are all broken and all equally in need of Jesus. What is shared in your group or mentoring relationship should stay there, so everyone can feel safe to be real.

1. Look at [upcoming events together](#) *(Are there any that your group would want to attend together?)*

2. Begin in Prayer *(Pray that God would speak to you through His Word)*

3. Read the text together *(Pay attention to how God is at work)*

Philemon 1–16

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. 7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. 15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

4. GROUP DISCUSSION *(Feel free to answer as many or as few as you see fit.)*

1. What stands out to you from this text?

2. The gospel starts in the household. What barriers have you seen in your household (immediate family and extended family) that exist in opposition to the gospel going forward in your house?
3. How has the gospel “renamed and reframed” relationships in your life? How has a stranger become a friend, or a friend become a brother or sister because of Jesus?
4. Reconciliation always costs someone something. Is there a relationship where you know that God wants reconciliation, but you know it would cost you dearly? What would it cost you to reconcile?
5. God works through messy unplanned moments. Where have you seen God show up in the mess of your family in ways that only He can?
6. Which of the following resistances do you feel the most in your home? Unpack it a bit.
 - We resist grace because we prefer control.
 - We resist speaking life because criticism comes naturally.
 - We resist reconciliation because resentment feels easier.
 - We resist change because old roles feel comfortable.
 - We resist hospitality because it costs us something.
 - We resist God’s providence because pain confuses us.
 - We resist tenderness because it feels dangerous.
7. What step do you feel God leading you to take to fill your home with grace this week?

5. PRACTICE

- Set aside one meal this week, and as a group fast and ask the Spirit to fill you to be an ambassador of His grace in your home. Compile a list of ways to pray for each other during that time.