

# Finding Christ in Philemon Worksheets

## Worksheet 1: Prepping the Passage

1. *What happens here?* Read the entire letter and write a one-to-two-sentence summary that gives the simple facts of the story. (You might use the questions *who, what, when, where, and how*, but avoid the question *why*.)

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2. *What does it tell me about God?* Focus on the body of the letter, verses 8–20. Observe every mention of God and note what you learn about him: his character, his words, his actions. (If these stir any personal questions you want to ask God, write those in the margin.)

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3. *What does it tell me about the people?* Focus on the body of the letter—verses 8–20. Observe Paul first. What do you learn about him? Can you picture him? Then do the same with Philemon and Onesimus. Is anyone a hero, villain, sinner, or sufferer? (If you identify with one person more than the others, make a note in the margin.)

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4. *What's the relationship between God and Paul? Between God and Philemon? Between God and Onesimus?* (If anything surprises you about how God relates to each one, put a question mark in the margin.)

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## Worksheet 2: Seeing Jesus, the Missing Ingredient

1. Which of the eight shortcuts is present in this passage? Pick one and write it here.

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God's	Man or Woman as
1. Character	5. Hero
2. Command	6. Villian
3. Promise	7. Sinner
4. Mercy	8. Sufferer

2. Ask the follow-up question to the shortcut you chose. See the charts below. Write it here.

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Do I see...	How does Jesus...	Verse
1. a character quality of God here?	make this aspect of God's character visible?	"He is the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15).
2. a command of God here?	make this command beautiful, not crushing?	"I have not come to abolish [the Law & the Prophets] but to fulfill them" (Matt. 5:17).
3. a promise of God here?	guarantee this promise?	"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him" (2 Cor.1:20).
4. a mercy of God here?	satisfy God's justice, so God can show mercy here?	"But God, being rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:4-5).

Do I see...	How does Jesus...	Verse
5. man or woman as hero here?	exceed this person's words, actions, or virtues?	"...behold, something greater than Solomon is here" (Luke 11:31).
6. man or woman as villain here?	show his way is much better?	"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live" (Ezek. 18:32).
7. man or woman as sinner here?	bear this sin and its consequences away?	"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).
8. man or woman as sufferer here?	experience, endure, and redeem this suffering?	"Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered" (Heb. 5:8).

3. Answer the follow-up question from your own knowledge of Jesus' sinless life and finished work as presented in the New Testament. Write it here. Be specific. (For example, don't settle for a general statement like, "This man was bad and Jesus was good," but ask and answer like this: "How was this man specifically bad, and how did Jesus' goodness specifically match and exceed his badness?")

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# Worksheet 3: Feeding on Christ

Taste the passage through the questions below.

<b>Eat: Feeding on the Gospel</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Verse</b>
<b>Gospel Praise</b>	How is Jesus beautiful and his work wonderful to me today?	“O taste and see that the LORD is good!” Psalm 34:8
<b>Gospel Perspective</b>	How does the gospel change the way I look at my life today?	“...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Romans 12:2
<b>Gospel Provision</b>	How will God provide for me today through Jesus?	“And my God will supply all your needs through his glorious resources in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19

1. How is Jesus beautiful and how is his work wonderful to me today?

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2. How does the gospel change the way I look at my life today?

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3. How will God provide for me today through Jesus?

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4. What is my takeaway verse from today’s reading?

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