

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Flint & Steel

Week 3: The Power of Challenge
Philemon 1:8-16

Week of September 25, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

In this week's sermon we got to the heart of Paul's message to Philemon. The reason Paul wrote was to challenge Philemon to emancipate his slave, Onesimus. We must learn from Paul how to challenge people well.

Kicking It Off: Jeff confessed that he chooses mild BBQ sauce. Which would you choose if offered these four sauces? 1) Mild 2) Touch of Heat 3) Hot 4) Scorching Fire!!!

Discussion:

1. Reread Philemon 1:16 *Perhaps the reason he 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.*

Why would this challenge have been so difficult for Philemon?

2. Can you think of a time that someone challenged you to make a change in your life? Tell the group about it.
3. Reread Philemon 1:8 *I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.*

Why do you think Paul preferred to make an appeal instead of giving an order?

4. Reread Philemon 1:8 *I appeal to you on the basis of love.*

Why is slavery inconsistent with the Christian principle of love?

5. Why do many of us avoid challenging others?

6. Reread Philemon 1:12 *I am sending Onesimus back to you.*

Speculate as to what went through Philemon's mind when he saw Onesimus at his door.

7. Can you think of a time that you offered someone a challenge? How did it go?

Wrapping It Up: Ask God to give you the courage and the wisdom to effectively challenge others?