



THEME

Love Strong Enough > to see past yourself, sacrifice, forgive + refresh.

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

Philemon 10-14, Philemon 17-20, Matthew 18:21-35, Matthew 6:9-15, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

CONVERSATION

1. What's the hardest 'good-bye' you've ever had?
 - a. What made it so tough?
2. Check out **Philemon vs. 10-14** > Remember, Onesimus was the runaway slave of Philemon. Pauls sends this letter with Onesimus to help him return to Philemon & restore their relationship. Paul is in prison in Rome when he writes this letter.

10 I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. 11 Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. 12 I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.

13 I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. 14 But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.

3. When Onesimus left > do you think it was a tough 'good-bye' for Paul? Explain.
4. It seems like Onesimus going back to Philemon was Paul's idea > what would motivate Paul to make someone he cared about & needed so much leave?
5. Has your love for someone ever motivated you to make hard decisions or do difficult things?
6. Is anything a better motivator than love at pushing us toward difficult, selfless, sacrificial, grace-filled stories?
 - a. What role does love play in our ability & willingness to forgive?
7. Finish by checking out **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

8. What attributes off this list are the most rare?
 - a. Which is the toughest for you to do?
 - b. How would it change your life if you were better at that?
 - c. How might it **refresh** those around you?

RESPOND

- Is there someone you've wronged that you need to ask forgiveness from?
- Is there someone who's hurt you that you need to forgive?
- Is there a way we can encourage + help each other reach for a love that's strong enough to forgive + looks more like Paul's description in 1 Corinthians 13?

PRAY

- Pray that God would help us build a community in ChiAlpha that loves strong enough to sacrifice, forgive + refresh.
- Pray for any relationships you may have that need grace + forgiveness to enter the story.
- Don't be afraid to bring the things you're struggling with to God, asking for his help + forgiveness. We all need to find that kind of rest + refreshing for our souls. What better place than right here, right now, with these friends?