

*Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.*

**Scripture**

Philemon 1:8-22

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God calls us to live as peacemakers who reflect the heart of Christ.**

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Organizing a slave revolt in Colossae wasn't on the apostle's agenda. After all, Rome was masterful at neutralizing uprisings. Instead of changing the world from the outside in, the gospel would change the world from the inside out. Paul understood from personal experience that only when the gospel gets to the source of the sin—the heart—can it enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the entire body. This inside-out strategy is far more effective in changing individuals, families, churches, cities, nations, and civilizations. Paul understood that reconciliation with Onesimus had to begin in Philemon's heart.

► **How do we sometimes try to change the world or ourselves from the outside in, instead of the inside out?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

*Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?*

**The salvation secured by Christ in the gospel is more comprehensive than justification alone: it brings repentance, wholeness, love for brothers and sisters in the Christian community. —D. A. Carson**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

*Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:*

1. Which of our family's difficult experiences has God used for our good and His glory?
2. How does our family's identity as children of God affect the way we treat each other and people outside of our family?
3. When is the way we communicate as a family more important than what we say?
4. How has God used the brokenness of someone in our family to show grace to someone else?