

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH
LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



Sermon Date: 27/10/2019

Text(s): Philemon 1:1 – 25

Title: Refresh My Heart in Christ!

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

Philemon 10–12 (NIV84)

10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

1. **Philemon had a large house in Colossae and the local church met in his house (see v2). We see PMC as our church. Can a church meet in a home? Can a Life Group (LG) that meets in a home be a church, something like “a church within a church”?**

2. **Philemon refreshed the hearts of God’s people by his love and generosity (see v7). The preacher highlighted how he loved with actions, not only with words. When we come together at church for service or in someone’s home for LG meeting, how can we refresh one another’s heart?**

3. **Apostle Paul called Onesimus his son and his heart, a slave he never knew before until now. What does this tell us about the relationship between Paul and Onesimus?**

Additional question:

4. **Paul appealed to Philemon instead of commanding him by his authority as an apostle. Does this tell us anything about Paul’s character?**



RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. Onesimus was a slave who ran away from Philemon, his owner. A runaway slave, if caught, would be severely punished and then sold to work in extremely harsh conditions that would gravely shorten his lifespan. Now Paul asked Onesimus to return to Philemon, making Onesimus risk harsh punishment. Paul also asked Philemon to ***forgive*** Onesimus, making Philemon risk having a rebellious and insubmissive slave in his home.

Would you take the risk to forgive someone who has hurt you deeply? Have you ever had such an experience, where you forgave someone, leading to the restoration of a strained or even broken relationship? Would you be willing to share that experience with your LG?

2. **Onesimus was a rebellious slave. After he met Paul, he received Christ as his Lord and Saviour. His life was immediately changed and his attitude, transformed. How has your life changed since you received Christ? How has your attitudes or character transformed since you gave your life to Christ? Share one example whether the change was big or small.**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray that we will always have a forgiving heart and pray that God's love would continue His work of transformation in our hearts.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support.
- Remember our church and churches in Singapore to continue as godly witnesses to Singapore and beyond.