**Lesson 06 - Rewarding the Runaway**

1. ____ Onesimus back without punishing him would truly be an act of unconditional love.
2. But Paul didn’t send Onesimus back empty-handed. He sent along a letter, a promise, & a personal request. We have the letter today as the Bible book of Philemon. In it we can read the promise & the request.
3. Paul promised personally to repay anything Onesimus owed Philemon. And he asked Philemon to take Onesimus back “no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. Welcome him as you would welcome me. . . . Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask” (Philemon 16-21, NIV).
4. But we can hope that Philemon responded by loving Onesimus as Christ loved him, & we can ask God to give us the same love & ____ toward others who wrong us.
5. Without money or friends, & more than a little scared, Onesimus met Paul. Paul was in Rome under house arrest. It was there that Onesimus was converted to Christianity.
6. [Monday’s lesson] Read Philemon 1-25. Investigate what it was like to be a slave in the Roman Empire. Discuss with a parent or another adult the difference that respect makes when used by people in authority.
7. [Tuesday’s lesson] Read Luke 6:27, 28. Map out the distance between Rome, where Paul & Onesimus were, & Colosse, where Philemon was. What would be the best route to go between Rome & Colosse? Why? Imagine the scene that occurred when Onesimus returned to Philemon. Draw a cartoon strip or write a dialogue of what you feel the meeting was like.

**FTWTF**

1. ____ Onesimus back without punishing him would truly be an act of unconditional love.
2. Why on earth would Philemon, who was probably more than a little ____ about the whole Onesimus affair do such a thing?
3. And Onesimus was converted not by the influence of his master, but by Paul, imprisoned ____ of miles away in Rome. .
4. Paul appreciated Onesimus. Now that Onesimus had confessed his sins & repented, he had become a special friend to Paul, caring for him & also working with him to ____ the good news of God’s grace & forgiveness with others.

**Power Text**

Leaves your gift there in front of the altar. First go & be reconciled to your brother; then come & offer your gift” Matthew 5:24 NIV

**We serve god when we reflect His unconditional love to others.**

**FTWTF - Title**

**Can’t find an answer?**

Check your Guide or quarterly!