



**Please note: There will be no LG Vimeo this week. Remind your group of the GLOW Made for More project.**

## BIG IDEA

**Big Idea: Great friends call one another UP, not OUT.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Have you ever had a friend who should have confronted you about something harmful you were doing and didn't? How did this make you feel in the end?

Most people have been in this situation. Why wouldn't someone share with a friend about a challenge they saw ahead of time? Not confronting a friend may actually fracture trust in the relationship.

**Read Philemon 1:8-25.** Do you believe that Paul was calling Philemon OUT or UP? Support your answer.

Paul was not forcing a change; he was trying to elevate the thinking of Philemon. There are two opinions on how Paul approached Philemon:

- Paul was using his authority in a subtle way to back Philemon into a corner—calling him out.
- Paul was legitimately communicating his faith in Philemon to rise above and embrace Onesimus as a brother—calling him up.

Discuss how Paul not taking sides might have made the difference in resolution.

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a strained relationship between two people you care for? What can you learn from Paul's example?

Paul was caught in a tension. There was the law and the rights of his friend to consider, but there were also kingdom issues to take into account.

How does Paul exemplify the balance between authority and diplomacy in this passage?

If your group was at the Sunday service, talk about the Police officer who had no complaints against him. Paste this link into your web browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Phzi1wmEeEw>

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Do you tend to call your friends out or do you call them up? How can you tell?

There is a difference between being called out and called up. Calling someone out is about selfishness where calling someone up is about selflessness.





# LIFE GROUPS

## LEADER GUIDE

Do you really believe that conflict has the potential to strengthen relationships? Why or why not?

Have you ever had a confrontation conclude where you felt better after? Explain.

Often, people avoid confrontation for so long that pain becomes the norm. If people would step into the situation, the problem can often be resolved much sooner with far less pain.

Which player in this story do you identify with most? Why?

The easy answer here may be to identify with Paul. Ask the group to consider if they have been wronged or if they have been the one doing the wrong. Accepting the role that you play in a relationship will help in planning steps to take toward healing in the next section.

## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

What positional roles might you need to step out of in order to better engage your friends in conflict?

In the passage above, Paul didn't claim his authority. What can your group learn from that approach?

**Re-read Philemon 1:17-19.** What price might you have to pay in order to see conflict resolved in a healthy, godly way?

Paul said that he would pay the price for Onesimus. There is a price to pay in relationship and conflict especially if we want to see it be resolved. Paul may have had to pay a price on both sides.

Is there a strained relationship you need to reconcile? How can your group support you in your efforts?

People in your group may need support and counsel on how best to proceed if they are going to seek resolution to a conflict.

**Read Colossians 4:7-9.** Talk about the process that Onesimus went through (he went from a slave to a "faithful, dear brother"). What hope does this give you for the future of your strained relationships?

Onesimus was a slave and is now being discussed as a peer and even a leader. This is a miraculous turnaround especially in this time period. How might relationships with your group members be transformed by following Paul's example?

