

LESSON 1

SUPER SERVICE

PHILEMON 1:1–7



1 How would you describe excellent service . . .

from a gas station? _____

in a grocery store? _____

from a mail-order company? _____

at a church? _____

2 Who or what makes the difference at these places?



Read the introductory material to Philemon, Philemon 1:1–7, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:2 ☐ 1:4–7

3 Why did Paul thank God for Philemon (1:4, 5)?

4 How did Philemon, who was not a pastor, serve and minister to people in the church (1:5–7)?

We know from what Paul wrote that Philemon was not a pastor or a paid church staff member but just a Christian living in Colosse. Yet rather than merely attending church, Philemon opened his home to other Christians so they could meet together. And, as Paul says with praise, Philemon loved God’s people. You do not have to hold a formal position in the church to serve God. God uses many people to accomplish his work. Some of them are formal leaders of local churches. Many others are simply Christians who have opened their homes and shown their love for believers in tangible ways.



5 Why is it important for all Christians—not just formal leaders—to minister?

6 In your church, what holds people back from serving?



7 How can Christians be motivated to serve more?

8 What are some of the ways you now serve in your church?

9 How might you open your home for ministry?

10 How else can you serve God's people?

11 What act of service could you perform in the next week or two?



A How did Philemon use his wealth to serve God (1:1, 2)? What resources do you have to serve God? Whom could you help with these resources?

B What effect did Philemon's life have on others (1:4–7)? What effect does your life have on others? What could you do to be more conscious of your example to others?

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