

BIG IDEA

Genuine friendship is a bridge that can carry the weight of truth.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What is your favorite book or movie about friendship? What do you like most about it?

Read Philemon 1:1-7. What elements of genuine friendship can you identify within this passage?

What conclusions can you draw about Paul and Philemon's relationship from these verses?

Why might Paul start out his letter to Philemon this way? Support your answer.

What can we learn about kingdom friendships in this passage?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Reflect on the relationships you have in your life. How much truth-telling goes on in these relationships?

How many *genuine* friendships do you have in your life? How do you feel about your answer to this question (grateful, sad, confused, etc.)?

Recall the "four times" all relationships go through from this week's message: **Confusion, Conflict, Confrontation and Conclusion.** Which of these "times" tends to be the most problematic for you in your relationships? Why might this be?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How good are you at expressing gratitude for the genuine friendships in your life? How will you improve in this area?

What is one step you can take this week to reinforce the genuine friendships in your life?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. How does this passage speak to you, specifically? What changes do you sense God asking you to make in the way you relate to others?

