

Scripture: Philemon 1:1-25

Wonder: Have you ever gotten into a disagreement with someone at home or at school? Maybe you wanted to play a different game than your friends on the playground. OR you were mad because the music in the car wasn't what you wanted to listen to. OR movie night wasn't your pick. OR maybe someone did something you knew wasn't okay. OR maybe someone said something that hurt your feelings.

What are things you can do when someone hurts your feelings and you aren't getting along? Do you fight about it until you come to an agreement? Do you storm off? Do you say something hurtful back? Do you just give the person lots of space—sometimes so much space that maybe you don't ever play together again?

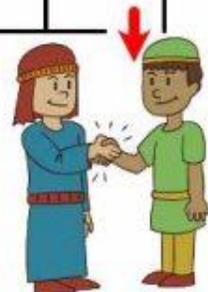
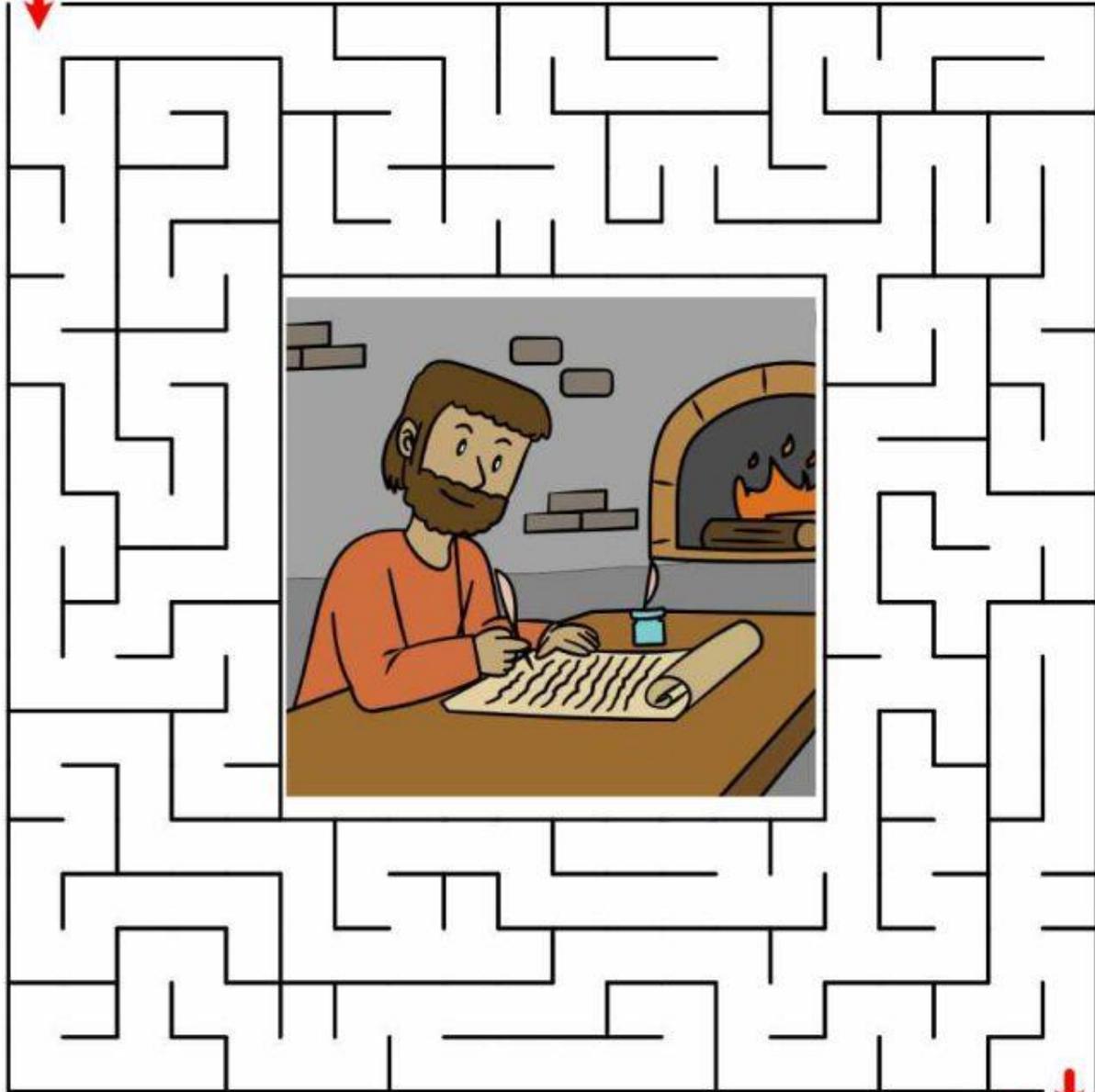
In our Bible Story today we find out about a broken relationship between Philemon and Onesimus. They were both mad and hurt. Philemon was a wealthy man and kept Onesimus as a servant or a worker at his house and didn't always treat him the best and Onesimus, understandably didn't want to be treated like that anymore. So Onesimus ran away and ended up meeting Paul. Paul being a mutual friend and big God follower—wrote a letter explaining that as Christians we need to work through things and forgive one another. He points out that having Onesimus as a servant was really not an okay thing. And Onesimus leaving his friends and the people he always knew was also really sad. Society would have let Philemon punish Onesimus in really mean ways if he returned after running away. But Paul knew, they could work it out—both as free people—working side by side in love. And so, they get closer together to work things out.

Coming back together like that is called Reconciling and is our theme for today. We are called to reconcile (or make better) our relationships with one another in love. Forgiveness and staying together as one community and church are really important to God. So we work really hard at that not just at church but in our lives.

Activity: Do the maze to help Onesimus and Philemon find their way back together to reconcile, or fix, their relationship. And as a bonus—you can find the 8 differences in the picture of Onesimus and Philemon—things may be different but they can still work together in God's love.



Help Onesimus return to Philemon



Find 8 differences

