# **Thanksgiving and Prayer - Philemon 1:1-7**

Topics: Encouragement, Friendship, Prayer, Relationships, Slavery, Thankfulness, Words

### **Open It**

- 1. Who has prayed for you in the past?
- \* 2. What role have someone's words of encouragement played in your life?
  - 3. How much of what is said to you each week at work and home is negative or positive?

#### **Explore It**

- 4. Who wrote this letter? (1:1)
- 5. To whom was this letter written? (1:1)
- 6. What do we know about the church from this brief introduction? (1:2)
- 7. What two godly qualities did Paul desire for his readers? (1:3)
- \* 8. What was always a part of Paul's prayers? (1:4)
- \* 9. What had Paul heard about the readers of this letter? (1:5)
- \* 10. How did Paul pray for his audience? (1:6)
  - 11. What did Paul suggest that Philemon would gain by actively sharing his faith? (1:6)
  - 12. What had Philemon done for Paul? (1:7)
  - 13. What had Philemon done for the other Christians in the region? (1:7)

#### Get It

- 14. When are the normal times in a day or week that you pray?
- 15. What are the subjects or concerns you most often address in your prayers?
- 16. What are the marks or ingredients of a good prayer?
- \* 17. When should we ever tell someone that we are praying for him or her?
  - 18. What is your reaction when someone says he or she is praying for you?
- 19. How does it help a person to tell him or her that you are praying for them?
- \* 20. How can compliments and encouragement influence someone's life?
  - 21. How does it help a person to pray for him or her?
  - 22. What is the difference between what a person should and should not pray for?

## **Apply It**

- 23. Who are several people for whom you need to pray this week?
- \* 24. Who in your life needs a word of compliment or encouragement at this time?
  - 25. Whom could you write or call this week to thank for the joy or encouragement they have given to you during your life?