

## Connect to One Another

1. HOW DO YOU NORMALLY CELEBRATE JULY 4TH WITH YOUR FAMILY?
2. WHICH OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHERS MOST INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?
3. WHICH OF THE BIBLICAL FATHERS OR MOTHERS MOST INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?

## Connect to God

In the message we learned that you can't take on slavery until we take on sin. You can't fix the problem until you fix the thing behind the thing. And the thing behind the thing is the selfish, sinful pattern we all live under. It enslaves us to hate instead of love, to hoard instead of give, and to curse instead of bless. Jesus breaks into a world filled with sin, including slavery, and gives his life to redeem humanity and to destroy the power of sin in our lives. And now Christians are called to live out his love and his way in the world.

1. WHY IS SLAVERY SO OPPOSED TO THE WAY OF JESUS?
2. HOW CAN WE HONOR THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION WITHOUT OVERLOOKING THE FAULTS OF ITS ANCESTORS?
3. WHAT OTHER PARTS OF OUR NATION'S PAST DO YOU WISH THE LOVE OF JESUS COULD CHANGE?

## Apply the Teaching

At the end of the message we went through the book of Philemon. This book shows the difference Christianity can make when we live our lives for Christ. Paul is writing to Philemon, a rich Christian who hosts a church in his home, and thanks him for his faithfulness and love. But then he addresses something he wants Philemon to do, free a slave. But Paul doesn't just want him to free him; he wants him to receive his former slave as a brother in Christ. This will refresh Paul's faith in the mission and people he's called to serve.

1. WHY DO YOU THINK PHILEMON RECEIVING A FORMER SLAVE AS A BROTHER IS SO PARAMOUNT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH?
2. HOW CAN WE AS CHRISTIANS DO A BETTER JOB SPEAKING FOR THE OPPRESSED IN OUR WORLD?
3. HOW HAS GOD'S LOVE HELPED YOU GROW IN LOVE FOR OTHERS?