

The Bible story of Onesimus

The book of Philemon contains one of the great salvation testimonies of the Bible. However, unlike the narrative style of the gospels, this story is hidden in the form of a personal letter written from Paul to Philemon.

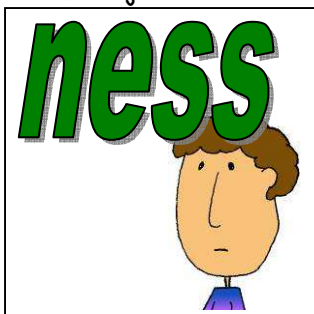
Using this story-telling device you can help the students remember the details of how a runaway slave was saved and lived a profitable life.

Instructions

1. Print and cut out the cross shaped figure on page 2. You may optionally print pages 3 to 14 for alternative designs for larger audiences and for coloring projects.
2. Fold the four leaves behind "ness".
3. Unfold the leaves as you tell the story.

Example story

Today we're going to hear a lesser-told story about a man named "Ness". Did you know Ness is a man in the Bible? Usually he is known by his whole name **Onesimus** but today it will help us remember the story better if we just call him **Ness**.



Ness was a slave who worked for a Christian named **Philemon**. Philemon was a man who preached the gospel with his friend Paul.

Badness

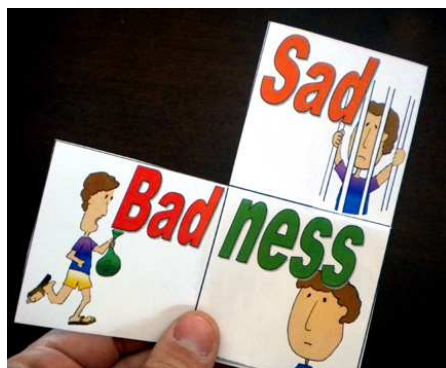
One day Ness was working in his master's business when he stole some money and ran away. This shows what was in Ness. He was full of "Badness".

All of us are like Ness in this way. We do bad things like stealing. Another name for Badness is sin.



Sadness

To get far away from Philemon, Ness traveled all the way to the city of Rome. Perhaps he kept on stealing things from people because the next time we see him, he is in prison. Now he was filled with "Sadness" Sin always brings sadness. There are consequences for bad decisions. However, the ultimate sadness that sin brings is punishment. While in prison, Ness had to learn just how sad sin can make one feel.

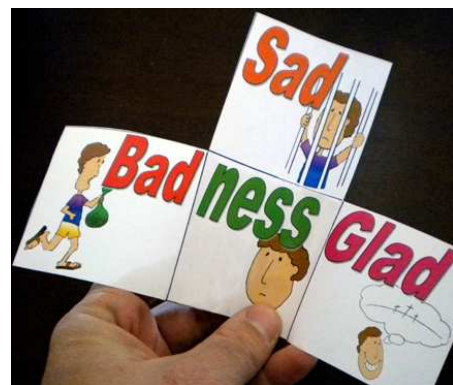


Gladness

While in prison, Ness met another man named Paul. Paul was different than the other prisoners. Paul was not a criminal. He was in prison for

preaching the gospel. Even though Paul was in jail, he didn't stop telling people about the salvation that Christ can give. Paul explained salvation to Ness. Ness understood what Jesus did for him on the cross. The Bible says "Christ died for the ungodly." Romans 5:6

Now that Ness was saved, he was full of Gladness.



Richness

What should Ness do now that he was saved? Should he return home to Philemon? Would Philemon be angry and punish Ness?

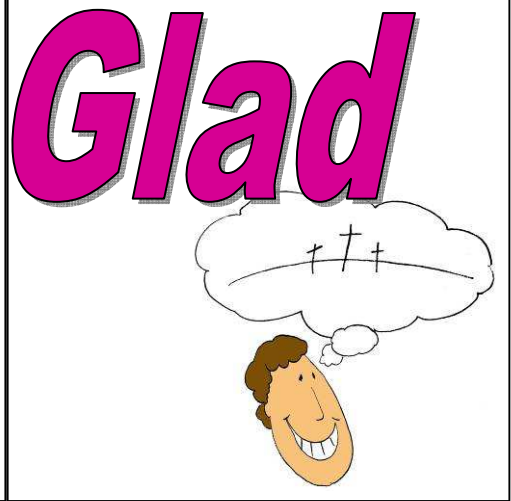
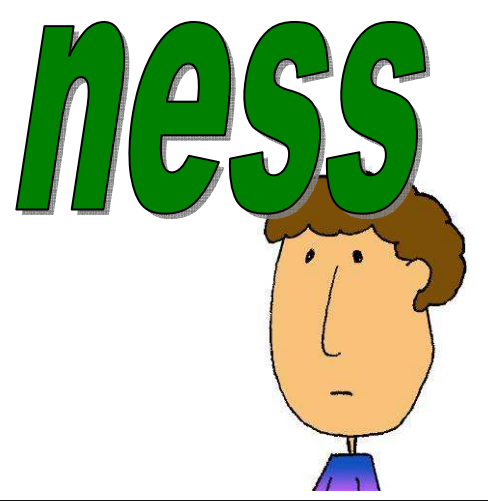
Paul assured Ness that Philemon was a Christian who would forgive the wrong things done against him. Paul even wrote the letter of Philemon to tell how Ness had been saved.

Now Onesimus could enjoy the Richness of fellowship in the family of God.

About this page

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Ness—Larger version for showing to a small audience. Cut out the picture on the black line. Tape the other pictures to the sides of the picture as shown on page 1.



Badness—Cut out the picture on the black line. Tape to the left side of Ness picture as shown on page 1.



Sadness—Cut out the picture on the black line. Tape the top of the Ness picture as shown on page 1.

Glad



Gladness—Cut out the picture on the black line. Tape to the right side of the Ness picture as shown on page 1.



Richness—Cut out the picture on the black line. Tape to the bottom of the Ness picture as shown on page 1.

Sad

Bad

ness

Glad

Rich

Onesimus—Squares without pictures. This is an alternative design you may use if you don't like the pictures on page 2.

Sad

Bad

ness

Glad

Rich

Onesimus—Squares without pictures that need to be colored.
Alternative design you may use if you don't like the pictures on
page 2.



Onesimus—Squares without pictures. Alternative design you may use if you don't like the pictures.



Onesimus—Squares without pictures. Alternative design you may use if you don't like the pictures.



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