



UNPOPULAR SERIES



from **Godly Pearls**

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this resource.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 4 and distribute them to your students.



Topic: Philemon – A lesson in forgiveness and reconciliation.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To explain the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation in Christian relationships.



Lesson Takeaway:

God wants us to forgive others just as He has forgiven us.



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Date:



Topic:

Philemon – A lesson in forgiveness and reconciliation.



Bible References:

Philemon 1: 1 – 25



Who was Philemon?

Philemon was mentioned in a personal letter from the Apostle Paul in the book of Philemon. Philemon was a Christian, had a slave known as Onesimus, and was a leader of the group of believers that met in his house. He lived in the city of Colosse and was known for his faith in Jesus and his love for the saints.



What did Philemon do?

Philemon had a slave named Onesimus. One day, Onesimus ran away from Philemon. When Onesimus left, he possibly stole some things from Philemon. Onesimus ended up meeting Paul while he was in prison. Paul preached the gospel to Onesimus, he became a Christian and his heart was transformed.

Paul later wrote a letter to Philemon, pleading on behalf of Onesimus. In Philemon 1:10-12, Paul says, "I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart."





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What did Philemon do? (Contd.)

Paul's letter to Philemon is a heartfelt plea for reconciliation and forgiveness. He asked Philemon to welcome Onesimus not just as a slave but as a beloved brother in Christ. Paul accepts that Onesimus had done something wrong, but he focuses on the change that had taken place in the heart of Onesimus as he had accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

In Philemon 1:17-18, Paul continued to plead, "If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account."

Paul's plea is deeply rooted in Christian love and fellowship. He encouraged Philemon to rise above unforgiveness and to extend grace and forgiveness to Onesimus.



What can we learn from Philemon?

Philemon's story teaches us important lessons about forgiveness, reconciliation, and Christian love. Below are some lessons from the story:

- Forgiving those who have wronged us can heal relationships and restore unity among Christians (see Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:31).
- Paul's plea to Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ and not as a slave shows that Christian love breaks every barrier, such as between rich and poor, master or servant, young or old (see Galatians 3:28,29).





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What can we learn from Philemon? (Contd.)

- When we forgive those who hurt and offend us, we reflect the character of Christ, who forgave us of our sins and commands us to forgive others (see Matthew 6:14 – 15).
- Paul was pleading on behalf of Onesimus. We are encouraged to stand up and speak for others who cannot speak for themselves. We are encouraged to help reunite people with one another, to bring peace to those who are hurt, to help restore broken relationships (see Proverbs 31: 8 – 9).



Memorize:

Colossians 3:13 – "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do".



Scenario Review:

Your friend, Isaac, has hurt you. He said untrue and unkind words about you behind your back. Another friend, Josh, asked you to forgive Isaac. Josh said he spoke with Isaac, and he has now changed. He said Isaac regrets saying unkind things about you. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember: God wants us to forgive others just as He has forgiven us.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You for Your forgiveness. Please help me to have a forgiving heart. Teach me to show grace and love to those who have wronged me. Help me to reflect Your love and forgiveness in all my relationships. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

