



# 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: Epaphroditus – A brother, worker, and soldier for Christ.



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 dedication, service, and brotherly love in the Christian community.



Lesson Takeaway:

God wants us to love and serve Him faithfully with all our heart. He also wants us to love and serve other people, especially believers.



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Date:



Topic:

Epaphroditus – A brother, worker, and soldier for Christ.



Bible References:

Philippians 2:25 – 30;  
4:18.



## Who was Epaphroditus?

The Bible mentions Epaphroditus in Paul's letter to the Philippians. He was a member of the church in Philippi who was sent by the Philippians to bring relief and support to Paul during his imprisonment (Philippians 4:18).

Although Epaphroditus's name and actions were mentioned briefly, his dedication and service made a significant impact on Paul's ministry and the church.



## What did Epaphroditus do?

In Philippians 2:25, Paul praised Epaphroditus and referred to him as "...my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier... your messenger and the one who ministered to my need". From our bible references, we learn several important things about Epaphroditus.

- Paul referred to Epaphroditus as his brother. They were not family members but had become very close because of their faith in Jesus. They had a loving relationship.
- Epaphroditus worked alongside Paul in the ministry of the gospel. This showed his dedication to spreading the message of Christ.





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## What did Epaphroditus do? (Contd.)

- Epaphroditus was asked to deliver relief items and support to Paul while Paul was in prison. This is an important work that showed the Philippian church viewed Epaphroditus as a responsible person and could be trusted.
- Epaphroditus was sick and almost died. Yet, he was deeply concerned about the well-being of the Philippians. He was caring and selfless.



## What can we learn from Epaphroditus?

The life of Epaphroditus teaches us several important lessons about dedication, service, and brotherly love. Below are some lessons.

- Epaphroditus was committed to serving Paul and the Philippian church, even at the risk of his own health. We learn that it is important to be dedicated to our service for God and others (see Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:10 – 12). We should not be giving excuses for why we cannot serve or help in the church. You can help to tidy up the church, hang up posters on the wall, wipe the board, distribute materials to other students, read the bible during Sunday School lessons, answer questions and so on.
- Paul and Epaphroditus had a loving relationship. We should do our best to build strong, loving relationships with our fellow believers within and outside the church (see 1 Peter 4:8 – 10).
- Epaphroditus supported Paul in the ministry. We see that it is important to work together for the cause of Christ and the gospel. Teamwork and collaboration or working with other people will help to spread the good news of Jesus (see Ecclesiastes 4:9 – 10; Proverbs 27:17; Romans 12:4 – 5).





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## What can we learn from Epaphroditus? (Contd.)

- Epaphroditus was concerned for the well-being of the Philippians, even while he was ill. He put the needs of others first. We can learn to care for others and put the needs of others above our own. “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).



### Memorize:

Romans 12:10 – Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another”.



### Scenario Review:

Adrian, a classmate has been sick for a week and has not been able to attend school. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



### Remember:

God wants us to love and serve Him faithfully with all our heart. He also wants us to love and serve other people, especially believers.



**Let us pray:** Dear God, thank You for loving and caring for me. Please help me to be loving and selfless. Teach me to serve You and others with all my heart and to show brotherly love and care in all my relationships. Help me to always be willing to work together with my fellow believers for Your glory. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

