



# 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: Onesiphorus – An example of a faithful friend and supporter.



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 faithfulness and support in friendships.



Lesson Takeaway:

A faithful friend offers support, encouragement, comfort and strength in times of need.



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Date:



Topic:

Onesiphorus – An example of a faithful friend and supporter.



Bible References:

2 Timothy 1:16-18;  
2 Timothy 4:19



## Who was Onesiphorus?

The Bible introduces us to Onesiphorus in Paul's second letter to Timothy. Onesiphorus was a friend and supporter of the Apostle Paul. He was known for his faithfulness and kindness during Paul's imprisonment.



## What did Onesiphorus do?

In 2 Timothy 1:16-18, we read about the friendly and supportive actions of Onesiphorus. Let's explain further below.

1. Onesiphorus constantly ministered to Paul and offered him support and encouragement. It was not a one-time act. He did it often. He was a faithful friend and buddy to Paul, the Apostle.
2. Paul was in chain and many people would have been ashamed of associating with someone like that. He was a prisoner. Despite the stigma of imprisonment, Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul's chains. He remained a loyal friend and supported Paul.
3. When Paul was in Rome, Onesiphorus carefully searched for him until he found him. This shows his determination and dedication to helping his friend. Onesiphorus could have stopped searching when he didn't see Paul quickly, but he persevered. He didn't make excuses or complaints. He didn't take the easy way out.





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## What can we learn from Onesiphorus?

Onesiphorus's story teaches us important lessons about faithfulness, support, and the impact of true friendship.

1. Onesiphorus's unwavering support for Paul shows the importance of being a faithful friend. Such friendships provide strength and comfort, especially in difficult times (see Proverbs 17:17).
2. Onesiphorus stood with Paul despite his imprisonment. True friends are not ashamed of each other no matter what. Instead, they offer support and encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ecclesiastes 4:9,10).
3. Onesiphorus was determined to find Paul in Rome when he did not see him. It is commendable to be diligent and persistent in helping our friends. Our efforts can make a significant difference in their lives (see Romans 12:10; Job 2:11).
4. The kindness and support Onesiphorus provided to Paul had a lasting impact on him. He remembered the kindness and wrote about it. This shows that our acts of kindness and support can greatly encourage and strengthen others (see 1 Thessalonians 1:2 – 3).



### Memorize:

Proverbs 17:17 – "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity".



### Scenario Review:

Your friend, Sarah, is going through a tough time. Her dad got a new job somewhere far away from your neighbourhood where you both live. She is worried about starting a new school, attending a new church, living in a new neighbourhood, making new friends and missing her old friends. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?







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 **Remember:** A faithful friend offers support, encouragement, comfort and strength in times of need.

 **Let us pray:** Dear God, thank you for the gift of friendship. Please help me to be a faithful friend like Onesiphorus. Teach me to support and encourage my friends, especially in times of need. Help me to reflect Your love and faithfulness in my friendships, and let my actions bring comfort and strength to others. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

