

### Lesser Lights (2)

**Memory Verse:** *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms* (1 Pet. 4:10 NIV).

#### Background Helps:

Similar to lesson #46, this week's Bible readings include a wide variety of minor characters associated with the apostle Paul, most of whom were his friends and helpers in ministry.

#### Lesson Helps:

One overarching aim that could be used to include many of these minor characters: My aim is to teach my students about the roles of various individuals who assisted Paul in ministry, so that they will use their gifts to in service for Christ. Notice especially how Epaphras, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Euodia and Syntyche, and Onesiphorus partnered with Paul in the work of the gospel. The great apostle could not have done it alone! Challenge your students to use their gifts in cooperation with church leaders to expand the kingdom of God through the ministry of Exeter Chapel. Incorporate the memory verse into this lesson.

Another alternative is to focus on just one or two of characters with a more distinctive aim, according to the needs of your class. For example:

- My aim is to teach my students about Eutychus, so that they will pay attention in church! This lesson is built on the interesting story found in Acts 20:7-12. What do you learn from this passage about early Christian meetings? Why do you think Eutychus fell asleep in church? Was the fault his? Paul's? What part did room conditions play? What is the main point of this story? What responsibilities do the preacher, the listeners, and the ushers each have to make sure everyone stays alert in the church meeting?
- My aim is to teach my students about the conflict between Euodia and Syntyche, so that they will serve as peacemakers in the church. This lesson is based on Philippians 4:2-3, but it will also be helpful to use Philippians 2:3-8 as background. What positive information does Paul give us about these two women? What principles can we learn from these few verses about resolving conflict between believers? See Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:9, 23-24; 18:15-16 and other similar texts. Urge your students to take the initiative in resolving conflicts with fellow-believers and, as necessary, to act as a third party in helping others in the church to settle their differences.

- My aim is to teach my students the contrast between Onesiphorus and Demas in their loyalty to Paul, so that they will be steadfast in their support of Christian leaders. See Saturday's readings for this lesson.

**Assignment:**

-  Read about Timothy (2) (personalities around Paul).
-  Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2.