

Lydia Becomes a Christian

Acts 16:1-15,40



New Testament 6
Part 1: The Apostle Paul

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 16:1-15,40

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Matthew 6:33"](#)
- ["What Must I Do To Be Saved?"](#)
- ["Lydia"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Paul & the Fruit of the Spirit](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 6 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from the books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 2) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- ["Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I grow up, no matter what job I choose to do, I will be a Christian.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

We have been learning about how when Saul became a Christian, he got very busy teaching others about Jesus. Last week, we talked about how some Jews were trying to hurt Paul because they didn't like his preaching. Does anyone remember how Paul escaped from a city? (Review last week's lesson.) Today, we are going to learn about a woman who became a Christian and how the Church started in a town called Philippi.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Paul was an evangelist. What do evangelists do? Paul went to several different cities trying to teach others about Christ. One place he went was a city called Philippi. Let's see who he was able to teach and how the Lord's Church was planted there.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Paul made three long trips throughout much of the Roman Empire; we call these journeys his "evangelistic trips." On his second trip, he traveled with Silas (called a prophet in Acts 15:32), Timothy (the young man to whom Paul wrote two epistles), and Luke (a medical doctor and the author of Luke and Acts).
2. In a **vision**, God told Paul to go into the Roman province of **Macedonia**. Paul and his friends went to Philippi, one of the Roman colonies in Macedonia, to spread the Gospel.



Vision: something seen in a dream or trance; God used visions to convey messages to the apostles during New Testament times.



NOTE: Controlled by Rome since 146 B.C., **Macedonia** was very important to the Romans, even more important than Achaia (the rest of modern Greece) because it linked Rome and the entire eastern part of the Empire.

3. As usual, they used the Sabbath Day as an opportunity to teach the Gospel, since so many Jews would gather in one place on the Sabbath. One Sabbath Day in Philippi, they went to a river outside of town. Rivers were known to be places Jews would gather to pray on the Sabbath. Paul and his friends hoped to find some Jews who would listen to the Gospel.



NOTE: “the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer” (Acts 16:13, ESV): near the riverside (possibly the River Gangites, about a mile outside Philippi). Jewish tradition (not Mosaic Law) required that there be 10 Jewish men in a community in order to have a synagogue. Since there was no synagogue, and since most of the worshippers were women, apparently there were not 10 Jewish men in Philippi. It is not surprising that some “worshippers of God” gathered near the river to pray. Being near the river would have been away from the distractions of pagan worship in the city. It would also provide a place for traditional ceremonial washings before worship/prayer.

- Lydia is called a “worshipper of God” (the same phrase used to describe Cornelius). She may have been a Gentile converted to Judaism, since her name was common among the Greeks and Romans. In any case, she was willing to listen and learn from Paul.



NOTE: Lydia and her household were from Thyatira (another city in Macedonia, about 200 miles from Philippi). It was known for its fabric dyes and beautiful fabrics; Lydia was a “seller of purple.” “Purple” was a generic term used to describe several colors. There are different opinions about the source of the dye. One is that it came from a root grown in that area of the world. The other is that the dye came from a shellfish from the Mediterranean. Clothing made from the purple dye was very expensive, worn mainly by royalty and priests.

- Lydia believed his message about Jesus and was baptized, she and all her household. She graciously and kindly offered her home to Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke. From this small beginning, the church at Philippi grew into a wonderful church family that became very special to Paul. He wrote a beautiful letter to them; we call it Philippians (Philippians 1:3-5; 4:14-18).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Do the ‘Household Baptisms’ Justify Infant Baptism?](#)” by Caleb Colley on the Apologetics Press Web site for an examination of the claim that Acts 16:15 justifies infant baptism.

- It was Lydia’s job to sell purple fabric and dyes. However, for Lydia, it was more important to be a Christian than anything else. When I grow up, no matter what job I choose to do, I will be a Christian. Lydia is a great example to us, because she listened to Paul preach about Jesus and then she believed and obeyed. We want to have a heart like that so that when we study the Bible, we will always want to listen to God’s Word and obey—and put God first no matter what job we have.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Lydia Becomes a Christian Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bring strips of white cloth and purple food coloring/egg dye. Let the children dye the strips of

cloth and (after they dry) attach them to a take-home picture or card that reads: “When I grow up, I will be a Christian like Lydia.”

- Bring seashells and purple fabrics to class. Explain to the children that shells are the “houses” for sea animals with soft bodies (no bones). God planned the shells to protect these animals. Some of these animals are able to squirt dye into the water to hide from their enemies. The murex lives in a shell and has a dark purple, inky dye to color the water around him when he wants to hide. In Bible times, divers went into the sea to gather these small creatures so that their little bags of purple dye could be used to dye cloth.
- Make a Lydia doll out of a toilet paper or paper towel roll. [Examples of toilet paper roll Bible characters are on-line.] Write “Lydia: Acts 16” on the back.
- Give each child a piece of white construction paper, and let the children paint a river on it (or draw one with a blue marker). Give each child a picture of Lydia (or find a Bible lady cutout) to color and glue by the river. Make a basket out of construction paper to put by her and glue small pieces of purple fabric in it. The children can decorate trees, flowers, etc. around Lydia. Review the story. Write “Lydia obeyed and became a Christian—Acts 16.” (“[Lydia Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Bring strips of white cloth and purple food coloring/egg dye. Let the children dye the strips of cloth and (after they dry) attach them to a take-home picture or card that reads: “When I grow up, I will be a Christian like Lydia.”
- “[Lydia Becomes a Christian Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bring seashells and purple fabrics to class. Explain to the children that shells are the “houses” for sea animals with soft bodies (no bones). God planned the shells to protect these animals. Some of these animals are able to squirt dye into the water to hide from their enemies. The murex lives in a shell and has a dark purple, inky dye to color the water around him when he wants to hide. In Bible times, divers went into the sea to gather these small creatures so that their little bags of purple dye could be used to dye cloth.
- “[Word Scramble Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- “[Lydia Becomes a Christian Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bring seashells and purple fabrics to class. Explain to the children that shells are the “houses” for sea animals with soft bodies (no bones). God planned the shells to protect these animals. Some of these animals are able to squirt dye into the water to hide from their enemies. The murex lives in a shell and has a dark purple, inky dye to color the water around him when he wants to hide. In Bible times, divers went into the sea to gather these small creatures so that their little bags of purple dye could be used to dye cloth.
- “[Word Scramble Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *Lydia Believes*, by Stephenie Hovland, Arch books

SONGS:

“MATTHEW 6:33”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart 2](#)” CD)

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Wonderful Story of Love”)

(This song works best if half of class asks questions and the other half responds.)

“What must I do to be saved?”
The question comes today.
“What must I do to be saved?”
O answer me, I pray.”

The gospel of Christ, you must hear;
Believing, you then must repent.
Confess the name of our Savior,
Who down from Heaven was sent.

CHORUS:

Be bap-tized, be bap-tized,
Be baptized, from your past sins you’ll be saved.

“LYDIA” ([Click to Hear](#))

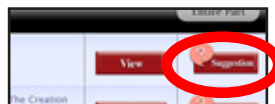
Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer”)

Ly-di-a sold fabric that was purple.
She loved the Lord and at the river prayed.
One Sabbath at the river she heard Paul preach,
And decided to be baptized on that day.

She and her household, they all became Christians,
And begged Paul and his friends with her to stay.
They stayed with Ly-di-a, their newest sister,
So happy she’d decided to obey.

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



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Acts 16:1-15,40



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Part 1: The Apostle Paul

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I grow up, no matter what job I choose to do, I will be a Christian.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Remind the children that Lydia was eager to listen, to learn, and to obey, and she was eager to help Paul and his friends by giving them food and a place to stay. There are many ways women, both in Bible times and now, help the Church. Women are special parts of the Church family, but they are not to lead in worship services or in the organization of the Church. God planned for men to be preachers, elders, and deacons. And God planned for women to be teachers of children and other women, and to serve in many other ways. [Discuss with the children seeing women “preachers” on TV or other such current trends. Emphasize how important women are to Jesus and to the Church because of all the things they do, etc., but that God did not plan for women to be elders, deacons, or preachers.]



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[Male and Female Roles: Gender in the Bible](#)” and “[The Bible and Female Leadership](#)” by Dave Miller, and “[The Biblical View of Women](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of gender roles in the Bible, the value of women, and a response to the charge that God is sexist.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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