#### Lesson 12:

#### Lydia becomes a Christian

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 16

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

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

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.

1. 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:** 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.

“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 Mosaical 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 “worshipers 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.

1. Lydia is called a “worshiper 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.

1. 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).
2. 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.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Do the ‘Household**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1384)[**Baptisms’ Justify Infant Baptism?**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1384)” by Caleb Colley on the Apologetics Press Web site for an examination of the claim that Acts 16:15 justifies infant baptism.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* There are no large card visuals for this lesson available. The tv visuals have been printed if the teacher prefers to use a hard copy. They are located in the visuals file.
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.
* Purple cloth, shells
* Maps to discuss Paul’s journeys

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* 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.
* Color the page about Paul’s missionary journeys for the NT Binders.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Color a coloring page of Lydia and add purple construction paper or fabric with glue.

##### Sunday School Craft: Lydia the Seller of Purple, Paul, Silas, cloth, clothing, garment, violet, indigo, snail, shells, ink, dealer, buying, selling, Thyatira

### Review Questions

1. How many long trips did Paul take throughout the Roman Empire?
   1. Three
2. What do we usually call these long trips that Paul took throughout the Roman Empire?
   1. Evangelistic trips
3. With whom did Paul travel on his second evangelistic trip?
   1. Silas, Timothy, and Luke
4. What is Silas called in Acts 15:32?
   1. A prophet
5. Which books of the New Testament did Luke likely author?
   1. Luke and Acts
6. Where did God tell Paul to go in his vision?
   1. Macedonia
7. To what city in Macedonia did Paul and his friends travel?
   1. Philippi
8. How is Lydia described?
   1. A worshiper of God
9. Who else in Scripture was described in this way?
   1. Cornelius
10. What did Lydia and her household do when they heard Paul’s message?
    1. They were baptized.
11. What was Lydia’s job?
    1. Seller of purple fabric and dyes
12. What likely began as a result of Lydia and her household’s obedience?
    1. The church in Philippi
13. What is the name of the letter that Paul wrote to the church at Philippi?
    1. Philippians
14. What lessons can we learn from Lydia?
    1. The importance of hearing God’s Word and obeying it; the importance of being a Christian first, no matter what job we may have

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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