

Come Help Us!

Acts 16:9-15, 40; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 212, 218

2 Lesson

Do you enjoy getting ready for a guest in your home? What is your special responsibility as your family prepares? Do you help fix special food? Do you help with cleaning the house? Our Bible story today is about a friendly woman who welcomed some special guests into her home.

Come over to Macedonia and help us. Come over to Macedonia and help us!" Paul woke up with a start and looked around him. He listened to the even breathing of his friends. No one else was awake.

"Silas! Silas, wake up!" coaxed Paul. Silas rolled over. "Silas! Luke! Timothy! Wake up!"

Paul was wide awake now. "I know where we're supposed to go next!" he said excitedly to his sleepy companions.

"God just gave me a vision! I saw a man from Macedonia saying, 'Come over and help us; come over and help us.' "

Silas yawned and stretched. "That's great,

Paul. We can catch a ship over to Neopolis from here."

Paul didn't sleep much the rest of the night. He knew God was leading them to the cities in Macedonia. And he could hardly wait to be on his way.

Soon the four friends were in Philippi, a city in Macedonia. They began preaching to everyone who would listen. They enjoyed sharing their love for Jesus.

When Sabbath came, Paul said, "Let's go outside the city and sit by the river for our worship."

As they neared the riverside, they saw a group of women who had already gathered to worship. "May we join you?" asked Paul politely.

"Yes, please, we would like that," one of the women answered. Then she introduced herself. "I'm

Lydia," she said,

"and these are my friends."

Paul was thrilled to meet these women! It didn't matter to him if a person was man or woman, Jew or Greek. He wanted to share the



The Message

I serve God when I share my home with others.

Memory Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for . . . some people have entertained angels without knowing it”

(Hebrews 13:2, NIV).

love of Jesus with everyone! As they sat down, Paul breathed a little prayer. “Holy Spirit, please open the hearts of these women to the good news of Jesus!” Then Paul told the women how Jesus lived and died to save us.

The new friends talked and prayed together. Then some of the women left, but Lydia stayed.

“I would like to know more. I want to know why Jesus died for me,” she said. That same day, Lydia and her whole family were baptized!

Lydia was so happy. “Please, Paul, won’t you and your companions come and stay with us?” Paul was pleased. He smiled, and Lydia encouraged him. “We’d love to have you!” she said. So while they worked in Philippi, Paul,

Silas, Luke, and Timothy stayed at Lydia’s house.

Lydia was a respected businesswoman in her town. She sold special purple cloth. It seemed as if everyone knew her. Because of Lydia’s kindness in sharing her home, many people learned about Jesus. Her home became the main meeting place for the new believers

in that city. Lydia served God through sharing her home.

Today, you can encourage your family to share your home with others, too. Inviting someone to visit or share a meal is one way to share your love for Jesus. Maybe you can’t have a guest live at your home as Lydia did. But wherever you are, you can help others feel at home by being friendly and kind.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a walk with your family. Find a quiet place and read your Bible lesson story together. Lydia was a dealer in purple cloth. Look for the color purple in nature. Make a list of what you find.

READ Read Hebrews 13:2 with your family. Tell what it means in your own words.

SING Sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (Sing for Joy, No. 51). Thank God for beautiful things.

M O N D A Y

READ Together with your family read Acts 16:13-15. Name a person who reminds you of Lydia.

DO Make a treat for your friend's visit. One idea is "Ants on a Log." Cut some sticks of celery and fill with peanut butter. Put raisins in the peanut butter to make the "ants" on the "log."

PRAY Thank God for your friend.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ For family worship, read and discuss Acts 16:34. Ask your family to tell you the man's story. Name some other Bible people who entertained visitors. Read about two more. Write their names after the Bible text.

Genesis 18:2-5 _____

Luke 19:5, 6 _____

PRAY Thank God for Bible examples to follow.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Acts 16:9-12. How would you like to travel as Paul did? Has your family ever done this for someone?

DO Plan with your parents to invite a friend over this week. What will you do?

DO Write your memory verse on a paper plate. Decorate and hang it on your refrigerator door. Say the verse each time you open the door.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Acts 16:13-15 again for family worship. Draw a picture of Lydia serving Paul and his companions in her home. Write "Lydia Serves God" on the picture. Use a purple marker or crayon. Then draw a picture of you taking care of a guest in your home. Write "I Serve God" on your picture.

PRAY Thank God for your home.

Lydia's purple cloth was very costly. The dye came from shellfish.





T H U R S D A Y

DRAW During worship time draw each picture listed below on a different sheet of paper.

Lydia meets Paul at the river.

Paul has a vision of a man from Macedonia.

Lydia invites Paul to stay at her house.

Lydia and her family are baptized.

DO Arrange your pictures in the order of the story in Acts 16:9-15.

DO Say your memory verse without help.

F R I D A Y

DO Sometime today help make extra food for Sabbath dinner tomorrow. If visitors come to your church, will you invite them to your home?

DO For family worship act out Lydia's story. Name some other Bible people who opened their home to others. Did you invite a friend over this week? Talk about it with your family. Read together Matthew 25:35, 40.

DO Show your memory verse paper plate, and say your memory verse together.

SING Sing "God Made Our Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 57) before prayer.

Come Help Us!

PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the following to find the names of Lydia's house guests.

1. alup _____

2. siasl _____

3. klue _____

4. ytmohiti _____

