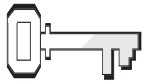


Come Help Us!



References

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



Memory Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for . . . some people have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that opening our homes to others is one way to serve God.

Feel enthusiastic about serving God by helping to care for visitors at home.

Respond by encouraging their parents to invite visitors home for meals or a place to stay.



The Message

I serve God when I share my home with others.

Monthly Theme

Others can see Jesus in us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul has a vision of a Macedonian man begging him to come over to Macedonia and help. Paul and his companions go there and stay for several days. On Sabbath they search for a quiet place by a river. They speak to some women who are gathered there. Among them is Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She and her family are baptized. Then she persuades Paul and his companions to stay at her home.

This is a lesson about service.

Our homes can be a place of blessing and outreach. The warmth of God’s family is effectively manifested and illustrated in a Christian home setting. Those who are invited therein are drawn into a circle of love that enhances the likelihood that they will choose to join God’s family.

Teacher Enrichment

Macedonia—“A country north of Greece, but mostly included in modern Greece. . . . In 146 B.C. it was made into a Roman province, governed by a proconsul, with Thessalonica as capital. . . . The eastern section of the country possessed fertile plains around the various rivers. . . . The interior, western section of Macedonia, which was mountainous and not very fertile, was sparsely populated. . . . Jewish communities were found in some of the more important cities, and it was to these cities that the apostle Paul carried on his missionary activity and founded Christian churches. . . . [Paul] visited this area repeatedly in later years.” (See *The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 692).

Lydia—“A woman of Thyatira, a town in the area of the former country of Lydia. Possibly Lydia was not her real name, for the Gr. *Ludia* may simply mean ‘the Lydian (woman).’ Thyatira was famous for its dyestuff, and Lydia of Thyatira made her living in Philippi by selling purple dyes or dyed goods. She was an attendant at the Jewish place of worship, having been sufficiently influenced by the Jewish religion to be called one who ‘worshiped God,’ a technical term for converts to Jewry who had not become full proselytes (Acts 16:14)” (ibid., p. 687).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

| Lesson Section | Minutes | Activities | Materials Needed |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Welcome Those Guests!</i> B. <i>Unscramble the Room</i> | Bibles none |
| Any Time Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer | <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering box that looks like a house none |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study | recorded or hidden male voice, Bible-times costumes, pieces of purple cloth or crepe paper Bibles, 16 paper plates, marker Bibles |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Can You Come Over?</i> | chairs for "church scene," table and chairs |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Guest Mat</i> | crayons, markers, paint, construc- tion paper, clear contact paper |

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- Bibles

A. Welcome Those Guests!

Talk about having guests and what the children do and how they act when they have guests. Remind the class that it doesn't matter how much or how little we have, we can still invite people into our homes. We just offer our best and welcome them to share God's love.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think others feel when invited to your home?** (happy, loved) **How do you feel?** (happy that I made someone happy) **How is this serving Jesus?** **Let's read Matthew 25:40 together.** Adults assist as needed. **Who invites people to your home?** (me, parents) **Who will share about an experience with visitors?** (Allow discussion time.) **What do you do when someone needs a place to eat or sleep?** (Ask parents to invite them to your home.) **How could you treat them when they are in your home?** (I will welcome them, help them feel at home.) **Today's message says:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

B. Unscramble the Room

Beforehand, have the Sabbath School room out of order—chairs out of place, some turned over, things lying on the floor, etc. Let the children reorganize the room.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you like coming into a messy Sabbath School room?** **How was this like or not like your room at home?** **What do you do to keep your room clean?** **How would you feel if a guest in your home saw your room today?** **Why is it important to have a neat room and house for guests?** **When you help prepare for and take care of guests, you are living out our message for today.**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Join With Us" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 20)
- "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 57)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129)
- "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Talk about how the people in the mission story are serving God.



Offering

Say: **We can serve God by sharing our home with others. Our offerings can help more people in our world learn about God and the wonderful home He wants to share with them. Let's serve Him with our offerings now.** Collect offering.

You Need:

- offering box that looks like a house



Prayer

Ask for prayer requests. Then form prayer bands. After everyone has finished, pray with the whole group. Pray for each home represented in your class and that each child will be willing to serve God by sharing their home with others. Then sing together "This Is My Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 106).

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- recorded or hidden male voice
- Bible-times costumes
- pieces of purple cloth or crepe paper

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Paul, Silas, Lydia, Luke, Timothy, all in Bible-times costumes; narrator (teacher)

Props: recorded or hidden adult male voice calling “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”

Involve the children in an interactive Bible story:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| When you say: | They respond with: |
| Paul | <i>Thumbs up.</i> |
| Macedonia | <i>Motion to come.</i> |
| Lydia or Lydia’s | <i>Wave purple cloth or paper.</i> |

Read or tell the story.

[Have each character speak or repeat their part as the narrator tells the story.]
(Recorded or hidden male voice speaks.)

“Come over to **Macedonia** *[Motion to come.]* and help us. Come over to **Macedonia** *[Motion to come.]* and help us!” **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]* 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**. *[Thumbs up.]* Silas rolled over. “Silas! Luke, Timothy! Wake up!”

Paul *[Thumbs up.]* 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** *[Motion to come.]* saying, ‘Come over and help us; come over and help us.’ ”

Silas yawned and stretched. “That’s great, **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]*. We can catch a ship over to Neopolis from here.”

Paul *[Thumbs up.]* didn’t sleep much the rest of the night. He knew God was leading them to the cities in **Macedonia** *[Motion to come.]*, and he could hardly wait to be on his way.

Soon the four friends were in Philippi, a city in **Macedonia** *[Motion to come.]*, sharing their love for Jesus. Sabbath came, and **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]* said, “Let’s go out of town and sit by the river to worship.”

Nearing the riverside, they saw a group of women had already gathered to worship. “May we join you?” asked **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]* politely.

“Yes, please do!” one of the women answered. “I’m **Lydia** *[Wave purple.]*, and these are my friends.”

Paul *[Thumbs up.]* was thrilled to meet these women who loved God! It didn’t matter to him if a person was man or woman, Jew or Greek; every person was someone to share the love of Jesus with!

As they sat down, **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]* breathed a little prayer, “Holy Spirit, please open the hearts of these women to the good news of Jesus!” Then **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]* told the women about Jesus and how He died to save us. They talked and prayed together, and some of the women left, but **Lydia** *[Wave purple.]* stayed.

“I would like to know more,” she said. That same day, **Lydia** *[Wave purple.]* and her whole family were baptized!

“**Paul** *[Thumbs up.]*, won’t you and your companions come and stay with us?” she asked. “We would be happy to have you in our home.”

So while they worked in Philippi, **Paul** *[Thumbs up.]*, Silas, Luke, and Timothy stayed at **Lydia’s** *[Wave purple.]* house. **Lydia** *[Wave purple.]* was a respected businesswoman in town. She

sold purple cloth. It seemed as if everyone knew her. Because of **Lydia's** [*Wave purple.*] 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** [*Wave purple.*] served God through sharing her home.

Today, you can encourage your family to share your home with others. Inviting someone to visit or share a meal is one way to share your love for Jesus. You may not be able to have a guest live at your home as **Lydia** [*Wave purple.*] did. But wherever you are, you can help others feel at home by being friendly and generous.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
Have any of you had guests in your home lately? Would you like to tell us about it? When you have guests, what is your part in taking care of them? (Clean my room, help Mom with dinner, serve drinks, set the table, clean up, etc.)
How can you be more helpful? In doing this, what will you always remember? Let's say our message:



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bibles
- 16 paper plates
- marker

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the paper plates, one word on each, and mix them up. Don't forget the text.

Have the children find the text in their Bibles, read it aloud together, then place the paper plates in order and read the verse again. Remove one paper plate and

have them say the verse again. Continue removing a plate and having the children say the verse until all the plates are gone. Repeat until the children know the verse.

Bible Study

Say: **Let's look at some Bible texts that tell about people sharing their home. Look for each text, read it, and be ready to tell who shared their home and with whom they shared.** Pair readers with nonreaders or have adults assist as needed. Use as many of the texts below as time allows.

Acts 16:13-15 (Lydia/Paul and friends)

Luke 10:38, 39 (Mary and Martha/Jesus)

Genesis 18:2-5 (Abraham/three men)

Genesis 19:1, 2 (Lot/two angels)

Luke 1:39, 40 (Elizabeth/Mary)

Acts 16:33, 34 (jailer/Paul and Silas)

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you like best about Lydia?** (She let God open her heart to Paul's message from God; she welcomed Paul and his companions to stay in her home, etc.)

What lesson did you learn from the Bible people in the texts that you read? (To share what you have; to be willing to welcome people, even if they come unexpectedly, etc.) **The next time there are guests in your home, what will you do to help?** (Talk with them, help serve, clean up, share my room if needed, etc.) **Let's say our message:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- chairs for “church scene”
- table and chairs for family and guests

Can You Come Over?

Choose some children to role play as you read the following scenario:

You are sitting in a church service with your family. A family whom no one knows walks in and sits down.

The parents in this family came to a seminar to help them stop smoking that was held in the church last week. They are not members of any church. They came to your church today because they wanted to learn more about God and His church that helped them to stop smoking.

After church your family invites them home for Sabbath dinner. They accept. Role play how you will treat them during their visit.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think when you see a visiting family in church?** (That they might like to be invited to Sabbath dinner; that our family hasn’t prepared anything for them, etc.) **Were you ever invited to someone’s home for Sabbath dinner?** (yes, no) **How did you feel?** (Accept answers.)

What can you do before Sabbath to be ready for visitors? What will you do when you see a visitor in your church next Sabbath? (I will help my parents make extra food for Sabbath; encourage my family to invite someone home, etc.)

Why do you want to invite others to your home? Let’s answer with our message:



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Guest Mat

Help each child create a special “guest” place mat, and decorate it with crayons, markers, paint, etc. They might want to write a big “Welcome” somewhere on the mat. If possible, cover with clear contact paper to ensure reuse.

Help the children plan whom they will invite to their home for a meal, to play, or to share toys. Encourage them to put their place mat at a guest’s place at their dinner table the next time they have dinner guests.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Whom will you invite to your home

the next chance that you get? What ideas do you have for a meal? How do you feel about having guests in your home? (I enjoy it; it is lots of work; I’m worried that we don’t have much to share; I’m happy to share what we have, etc.)

Have you ever made a new friend by inviting them to your home? Tell us about it. Let’s say today’s message:



I SERVE GOD WHEN I SHARE MY HOME WITH OTHERS.

Closing

Pray that everyone will be willing to make their home a welcome place for guests.

You Need:

- crayons
- markers
- paint
- construction paper
- clear contact paper

Come Help Us!

References

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

Memory Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for . . . some people have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).

The Message

I serve God when I share my home with others.

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 preach-

ing 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 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.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- 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 Hebrews 13:2 with your family. Tell what it means in your own words.
- Sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 51). Thank God for beautiful things.

Sunday

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

Monday

- Together with your family read Acts 16:13-15. Name a person who reminds you of Lydia.
- 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."
- Thank God for your friend.

Tuesday

- 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.

- Thank God for your home.

Wednesday

- 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 _____

- Thank God for Bible examples to follow.

Thursday

- 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.
- Arrange your pictures in the order of the story in Acts 16:9-15.
- Say your memory verse without help.

Friday

- Sometime today help make extra food for Sabbath dinner tomorrow. If visitors come to your church, will you invite them to your home?
- 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.
- Show your memory verse paper plate, and say your memory verse together.
- Sing "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 57) before prayer.