



Paul and Lydia

Lesson Aim: To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 16:12-15

What He has done: God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.

Key Verse: Acts 16:14

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 19:14

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:6-10	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know the Holy Spirit can lead us.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:12-15	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.
14	Paul and Silas in Prison, Acts 16:22-34	God freed Paul and Silas from prison and saved the jailer and his family.	For believers to praise God everywhere, every day.
15	The Resurrection: Jesus Lives, John 20:1-18	God raised Jesus from the dead.	To understand what Jesus' resurrection means for the Church.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-3, 9-11, 26	God gave Paul friends who worked, served, and taught with Him.	To know God gives us opportunities to serve Him together.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 119:32-40. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for opening our hearts to want to follow You. Fill the children with Your Holy Spirit so they will respond to Your call and follow You every day. Amen."

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Fast Responders	At least one two-foot square of purple cloth or sturdy paper for every four children, timer
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Whatever Is True" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" "I Praise You" "For God So Loved the World" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Every Move I Make" "Here I Am to Worship"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 27:8	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 13 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 16:12-15	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, map of Paul's Second Missionary Journey (available at ResourceWell.org)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Psalm 19:14	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Strip of purple cloth, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Whatever Is True"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Purple Service	Purple grapes or any purple snack, purple grape juice
	Up to 10	Game: Acts 16:13-15 Word Game	Copy of the "Acts 16:13-15 Word Game" (available at ResourceWell.org) for each child, pens or pencils
	Up to 10	Craft: Paul's Letter Keeper	Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Signs of Philippians 4:8	Ten large, sturdy sheets of paper or cardboard, marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Up and Down Bible Verse	Beach ball, permanent marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite color clothing to wear?

GAME: FAST RESPONDERS

Purpose: Children will practice responding quickly as they prepare to learn about Lydia's response to Paul's message about God.

Supplies: At least one two-foot square of purple cloth or sturdy paper for every four children, timer

How quickly can you follow the directions that you hear? Let's play a game to find out!

Directions:

1. Divide children into teams of four.
2. Give one two-foot piece of purple cloth to each team. You may want extras, especially if you are using paper.
3. Have teams use their purple cloths to complete the tasks from the suggested task list below, create your own tasks, or allow the children to suggest tasks.
 - It's raining! Use the cloth to keep your team dry.
 - Make a hat from the cloth for one person in your team.
 - You're at a game and your team just scored. Use your cloth to cheer for your team.
 - A teammate is at the bottom of a mountain. Use your cloth to rescue your teammate.
 - It's time for supper! How will you use your cloth?
 - You can do anything you want with your cloth. What will you do?
4. Time the teams for one minute after you read each task. They must work together to complete the task in that time frame. Provide more time for younger children or if children are unable to complete the tasks in the provided time.
5. Encourage the teams to look at and applaud the other teams' responses.

Today, we will learn about Lydia. Her job was to make purple cloth. Lydia worshiped God. One day, she met Paul and his friends by the river. She listened to Paul's message about Jesus and God opened her heart to respond to it. That means she did something about it! Let's find out what happened and how Lydia responded.

Limited Space? Let teams take turns acting out different tasks as the other teams cheer them on.



The God who saves us **THE WORSHIP**

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Seven Stars of Lent: If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org. Go to Other Resources. Click on The Seven Stars of Lent and choose one star for each week during Lent.



Today, we worship the God who saves us. He saved the people of Macedonia by sending Paul there to help them know Jesus. We will learn about Lydia who was one of those people in Philippi, in Macedonia. God opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. Let's ask God to open our hearts so we can worship Him today. With open hearts, we can love God with our songs, prayers, and our actions. Let's start worshiping God by giving our offering. Sing: "You Will Seek Me" while collecting the offering.



Read Psalm 27:8.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 13.



Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Whatever Is True." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on opening our hearts.



God opens Lydia's heart

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Paul and Lydia. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we saw how the Holy Spirit led Paul into Macedonia to tell people there about Jesus. As Paul continued on his second missionary journey, he traveled by sea to a few towns and then to Philippi, which was a Roman city in Macedonia.**

If a map is available, track Paul's second missionary journey, or point out the distance from Troas to Philippi in modern day Greece (ancient Macedonia). See ResourceWell.org for free maps of Paul's missionary journeys. **Today, we will discover who Paul, Silas, and Timothy met in Philippi.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 16:12-15.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 16:12-15.



Responding to God

THE WAY

Where did Paul and his friends go to find a place of prayer? (To the river.) **Who did Paul meet there?** (A group of ladies with Lydia.) **What was Lydia's job?** (She sold purple cloth.) **What do you think Paul told Lydia about Jesus?** (Children respond.) **We don't know his exact words that day, but we do know his message was always about Jesus. He may have told her Jesus is God's Son who died for us and was raised from the dead as Lord. He may have told her how much Jesus loves her.**

Who opened Lydia's heart? (God.) **God is the one who opens our hearts. What do you think it means for God to open your heart?** (Children respond.) **When God opens our hearts, we are able to understand or believe something about God that we couldn't understand or believe until God opened our heart. He opens our hearts to believe in Jesus. He opens our hearts to understand new things about Him and His plan for us. God opened Lydia's heart to respond to what Paul said about Jesus. To respond means to react or to do something. When God opened Lydia's heart, then she believed Paul's message. Believing is the first thing she did. Then, Lydia chose to be baptized as a sign that she was now a follower of Jesus. What did Lydia then invite Paul and his friends to do?** (She invited them to come stay with her.)

Before we read the Bible, we can ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word so we will understand what God is telling us in the Bible verses we are reading. When God opens our hearts, we can understand new things about Him. We can respond as Lydia did by believing, understanding, and taking action.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Nearly one thousand years before God opened Lydia's heart, King David wrote a psalm about his own heart. Check out what King David asked God to do with his heart.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 19:14. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Psalm 19:14.

The meditations of your heart are your thoughts and feelings. What did King David want his words, thoughts, and feelings to be? (Pleasing to God.) **What kinds of words and conversations do you think are pleasing to God?** (Children respond.) **What kinds of thoughts and feelings do you think are pleasing to God?** (Children respond.) **Our Bible Memory Verse gives us ways to have thoughts and feelings that are pleasing to God. Who remembers what our Bible Memory Verse tells us to think about?** For the answer, read Philippians 4:8 or Bible Memory Verse poster, or sing the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Whatever Is True."

If time allows, play THE SIGNS OF PHILIPPIANS 4:8 located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson, or simply discuss the meaning of each phrase in the Bible Memory Verse.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a strip of purple cloth. You may use it as a bookmark, tie it on your backpack, or tie it around your wrist as a reminder that just as Lydia did, you can respond when God opens your heart. Think about what God wants you to do, then respond—do it!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 13 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Paul telling Lydia about following Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Whatever Is True," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PURPLE SERVICE

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Purple grapes or any purple snack, purple grape juice

How did Lydia respond to Paul's message about Jesus? (She was baptized and then served Paul and his friends.) **God wanted her to serve others, so she served Paul and his friends by inviting them to stay at her house. Since Lydia made purple cloth, let's eat a purple snack. As we eat, let's talk about ways you have served others.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you seen someone in need and taken action to help them?"**

GAME: ACTS 16:13-15 WORD GAME

Purpose: In this Word game, children insert their names into the Bible story to realize they can respond to the message about Jesus, just as Lydia did.

Supplies: Copy of the "Acts 16:13-15 Word Game" (available at ResourceWell.org) for each child, pens or pencils

Optional: For younger children or large groups, you may choose to do this in teams or as a class.

Today, we learned how Lydia listened and responded to Paul's message about Jesus. How did Lydia respond to the message? (She was baptized and then served Paul and his friends.) **God's message is for you to hear and then take action, just as it was for Lydia. Let's pretend you are in the Bible story instead of Lydia. Follow the instructions to fill in the blanks to see what you will do now that you have heard about Jesus today!**

Directions:

1. Give each child a copy of the first page "Acts 16:13-15 Word Game: The Missing Words" and a pen or pencil.
2. Allow the children time to fill in the blanks on their pages.
3. Give each child a copy of the second page "Acts 16:13-15 Word Game: My Story" and have them fill in the blanks using the words they filled in on the first page.
4. Ask volunteers to read their completed stories.

You can respond to what you hear and read in the Bible and to what you learn at church. God doesn't want you to just hear about Him, He wants you to take action!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PAUL'S LETTER KEEPER

Purpose: To create a collection of verses from Paul's letters as the children learn of Paul's travels and his writings.

Supplies: Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: For any children who did not begin the craft in Lesson 12, provide materials for a cover (See lesson 12.) and a map of Paul's second missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear friends in Philippi,
"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)
Your friend, Paul**

Teacher Tip: This craft is designed to continue through Units 3-4 (Lesson 12-21). For each lesson, children add a new letter to their Letter Keeper. They can take their Letter Keeper home and bring it back for each lesson, or the teacher can collect them after each lesson and give them their completed Letter Keepers at the end of Unit 4.

Option: Each of Paul's letters in the Letter Keeper craft can be created as an individual craft instead of part of a collection.

Paul started many churches while on his journeys. He also returned to visit the same churches many times. He wrote letters to help them know how to love God and follow Jesus. We can find many of Paul's letters in the New Testament of the Bible. Let's imagine we are helping Paul collect copies of his letters. With each story we learn, we will mark on a map where Paul was on his journey and add an envelope containing one of his messages.

Today, we discovered Paul visited Philippi. Sometime later, Paul wrote a letter to the churches in Philippi. He told them since they had responded to the message about Jesus, Jesus would help them grow in their faith in Him. Paul wrote this letter from prison. Let's add Philippians 1:6 to our Letter Keepers.

Directions:

1. Copy the words of Philippians 1:6 onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper with a picture of one way you can take action for God.
2. Address the envelope to "The Church at Philippi." Write "From Paul" as the return address.
3. Punch holes in the envelope to match the holes in your Letter Keeper.
4. Unclasp the binding of your Letter Keeper. Add the new envelope and re-clasp.
5. Place the verse from Philippi inside the envelope.
6. Place a star sticker on the region of Philippi to show where Paul sent this letter.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

GAME: THE SIGNS OF PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, marker

Prepare: Create 10 signs by writing each phrase of the Bible Memory Verse (below) on a sheet of paper.

Teacher Tip: For added fun, mix the signs and have the children work together to stand in line in order.

Directions:

1. Have 10 children stand in front of the class. (Smaller classes may give children more than one sign.) Give each child a sign, keeping the signs in order.
2. Starting at the beginning of the verse, have each child lift up his or her sign as the class repeats the words on the sign. Ask children to respond to the questions below:

Whatever is true,	What is something that is true about God?
Whatever is noble,	Noble means respectable. Who do you respect?
Whatever is right,	What is something you know is right?
Whatever is pure,	Pure means without sin. What is a pure thought or action that is right in God’s eyes?
Whatever is lovely,	What is something that is beautiful?
Whatever is admirable—	Who is someone you admire or respect?
If anything is excellent	What is something excellent about God?
Or praiseworthy—	What is something so good, it is worth praising God for?
Think about such things.	
Philippians 4:8	
3. **All of the good things that you listed come from God. When we think about those things, they help us love and obey God!**

GAME: UP AND DOWN BIBLE VERSE

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beach ball or sturdy paper, permanent marker

Prepare: Write the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse on a ball (or sturdy paper if a ball is not available) in list form using the same ten phrases as listed in the above game. Number the phrases in order, 1-10.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line, one behind the other. Give the ball to the first child in line.
2. First child recites the first phrase from memory or reads it from the ball, then passes the ball between his or her legs to the second child.
3. Second child says the next phrase, then passes the ball over his or her head to the third child.
4. Children continue saying the phrases and passing the ball, alternately through the legs and over the head until the ball reaches the end of the line. If the verse ends before the end of the line, repeat the verse.
5. As a challenge, repeat the game passing the ball and reciting the verse faster and faster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) Barnabas was an encourager to Paul and to many others. What did he encourage Paul to do? (To come to Antioch, to keep preaching.) **Barnabas traveled with Paul on his first missionary journey. Barnabas risked his life to encourage non-believers to believe and new believers to stay true to Jesus.**

Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) On Paul's second missionary journey, God gave him a vision about a man from Macedonia. What was the man begging Paul to do? (To come and help them.) **Paul, Silas, and Timothy got ready to go to Macedonia right away. They knew the Holy Spirit was leading them to tell the Macedonians about Jesus.**

Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) Continuing on his second missionary journey, Paul went with Silas and Timothy to Philippi. There, God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message. What did Lydia do in response to Paul's message? (She was baptized. She invited them to stay at her home.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)