

Lesson 23: Lydia Becomes a Christian

[Acts 16:9-15](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/aConvKNx5KQ>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/Vk9Y34b2O40>

Worship Theme: God prepares our hearts.

Memory Verse: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. I Want to Know Christ https://youtu.be/oM_I89dK7hs
2. Jesus Is the Lord <https://youtu.be/I-PzUIJ0MVo>
3. I Enter His Gate <https://youtu.be/WvXL4DtBMdc>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: What's Your Name?

Materials needed: Mat or blanket



1. Divide the children in two group (equal number), and let all the group walk around and ask each other's name.
2. Ask the children to stand in line and face each other. The teacher will hold the mat in the middle to keep the children from seeing each other.
3. When the teacher drops the mat, the child who says the name of the person from the other team first gets a point. The team with more points wins the game.
4. After the game, explain to the children that in order to win the game, you had to be ready to say the name. Being ready to do God's work is important.

Introduction:

How do you get ready for a test at school? (Let the children answer - study, read the book, remember the words, etc.) What do you do to get ready for a soccer or other sports game? (Let the children answer - practice the game) Do you already believe in Jesus? When did you accept Jesus? Through whom? What do you think it means when we say, "God prepares our hearts"? (He makes our hearts ready for him; he helps us obey him.)

Today, we will learn about a woman whose heart was ready to believe Jesus, hear the message, and obey God!

Bible Story:

One night a man named Paul had a vision, which is kind of like a dream. In the vision, a man was begging Paul to come to his country to help him. Paul knew in his heart that God was telling him to go there. So, he and his friends went there. They wanted to tell the people about Jesus. When they arrived in the city of Philippi, they went down to the river, hoping to find some people. They started talking to the people who were by the river, and the people listened quietly to everything they said.

There was a woman named Lydia. The Bible says that the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message about Jesus. That means God helped her understand the message. Then she and all the people in her house believed and were baptized. Lydia loved God with her whole heart. God had prepared her heart! She listened, and she believed God.

Afterward, she invited Paul and his friends to her house, and she gave everyone a good meal. God loved Lydia so much that he sent Paul to her in the city of Philippi. He prepared everything for her so she could hear about Jesus. Her heart was ready.

God does that for you, too—he gets you ready to learn more about him. God prepares our hearts so that we can do what we were created to do. We can hear God’s message, and we can love and serve God the way he wants us to. Let’s thank God for preparing our hearts for him.

Questions to discuss:

1. What is the name of the woman who loved God with her whole heart? (Lydia)
2. What are the two things that she did after she believed the message about Jesus? (She got baptized, and she invited Paul and his friends to her house to give them a good meal)
3. What are some ways God uses to prepare our hearts? (bible message, prayer, worship, situations, people, etc.)

Game: Are You Ready?

Material Needed: Paper and pencils for each group; small prize (candy)



1. Divide the children into groups of 3-4 for a running competition.
2. Each group will choose their fastest runner to run from the starting line to the end of the classroom and return.
3. **BUT**, before they can run, they have to answer a question as a group in order to be ready to run the race.
4. Explain to the children that there are things that we

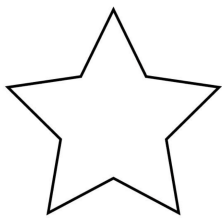
must do in order to get our hearts ready to believe and obey God. The group that writes down 3 things that we can do to get our hearts ready and turns it into the teacher is **ready to run the race!**

5. Give a small prize for the winning team.

Memory Verse: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Craft: “Thank You”

Material Needed: Stars (see below to print), popsicle sticks



1. Just as Lydia gave thanks to Paul and his friends, we are going to make a special gift for the people we love.
2. Help the children make TWO wands - one for themselves and the other one to give to their friend or someone they love.

3. Children will decorate the paper stars, cut out the stars, and tape them to the sticks.
4. When the wands are finished, have children practice what they’ll say when they give their wands to someone they love. Suggest “Jesus loves you, and so do I!” or “Thank you for being my friend.”



Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher’s Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

The more time you spend with someone, the more familiar you become with that person’s wishes. Paul spent a lot of time with God and always desired to know what God wanted. As you spend time with Jesus through Bible study and prayer, try to understand God’s will for you and make it your own. One of the biggest will of God is for everyone to come to know Christ. Choose one person to share God’s love with in the coming week.

