Preschool–Grade 6

Lydia

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God opens our hearts to hear His Word.
Bible passage: Acts 16. Read Acts 16:9–15 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "whose heart the Lord opened" *Acts 16:14 (KJV)*.
You need: a Bible, a blue towel or blanket to be the river, a purple crayon for each child, other crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 16. Lay the blue towel on the floor.

1. Opening game: Open and Shut (5 minutes)

Kids make a "door" with their hands pressed together. Say, "Shut!" and they hold their hands tight. Say, "Open!" and they open their hands wide like a door. Go faster, then slower. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a woman. God opened her heart!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 16. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Paul told people about Jesus. *(Point up.)*
God called Paul to go far away to preach (Acts 16:9–10). *(Point far away.)*
Paul and his helpers sailed on a ship (16:11). *(Rock side to side.)*
They went to a river to pray (16:13). *(Everyone sits by the blue towel.)*
A woman named Lydia was there. She sold purple (16:14). *(Hold up a purple crayon.)*
Lydia loved God. She heard Paul (16:14). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
The Lord opened her heart (16:14). *(Open your hands wide.)*
Say it with me: "The Lord opened her heart!"
Lydia was baptized (16:15). *(Pinch your nose and go down low.)*
Lydia said, "Come into my house" (16:15). *(Wave your arm: come in!)*
Say it with me: "Come into my house!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Paul go to pray? *(By a river, Acts 16:13)*
2. What color did Lydia sell? *(Purple, 16:14)*
3. Who opened Lydia's heart? *(The Lord, 16:14)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'whose heart the Lord opened.' That is Lydia's heart." Teach the motion: put both hands on your heart, then open them out wide. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 16:14" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Purple Heart (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet and a purple crayon. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and color it purple, for Lydia, who sold purple. While they color, ask: "Who opened Lydia's heart? What did Lydia say to Paul?" Kids who finish early can sit by the towel "river" and pray a short prayer with you.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Your Word.
Open my heart like Lydia's. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, play Open and Shut again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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