Preschool–Grade 6

Lydia

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: The Lord opens our hearts to hear His Word, so we listen and obey.
Bible passage: Acts 16:9–15. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul." *Acts 16:14 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 7 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have one: a chair to be Lydia's "door" (part 6).
Before class: write the memory verse on the 7 paper strips (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 16:14.

1. Opening game: Listen and Do (5 minutes)

Say a two-step job, quietly, only once: "Touch your nose, then touch your knees." Then three steps: "Clap two times, stand up, then sit down." Then four steps. Kids must listen carefully to get every step right. Ask: *What helps you listen really well?* Say: "Today we will meet a woman who listened very carefully, because the Lord opened her heart."

2. Bible story: The Lord Opened Lydia's Heart (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 16, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Paul was a preacher who went from city to city to tell people about Jesus. One night God showed Paul a vision, a picture from God. Paul saw a man of Macedonia, who asked him, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9). Paul and his helpers knew the Lord had called them to preach the gospel, the good news, there (16:10). So they sailed on a ship (16:11) and came to a big city called **Philippi** (16:12).

On the **sabbath**, the day of rest and worship, they went out of the city to a river side, where people met to pray (16:13). Paul and his helpers sat down and talked with the women who came there.

One of the women was named **Lydia**. She came from a city called Thyatira, and her work was selling **purple** (16:14). Lydia already worshipped God. She heard Paul, and **the Lord opened her heart**, so she listened carefully to everything Paul said (16:14).

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The story continues: Lydia was **baptized**, and the people of her house were baptized too (16:15). Then Lydia said to Paul and his helpers, "come into my house, and abide there." **Abide** means stay. She kept asking until they came (16:15)!

Later, after Paul and Silas came out of prison, where did they go? To the house of Lydia (16:40)! Lydia opened her heart to God's Word, and she opened her home to God's people.

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Paul go on the sabbath? *(Out of the city, by a river side, where people prayed, Acts 16:13)*
2. What did Lydia sell? *(Purple, 16:14)*
3. Who opened Lydia's heart? *(The Lord, 16:14)*
4. What happened after Lydia listened to Paul? *(She was baptized, and her household, 16:15)*
5. What did Lydia ask Paul and his helpers to do? *(Come into her house and stay there, 16:15)*

4. Memory verse: Seven Strips game (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 strips up in order: *And a certain woman named Lydia, / a seller of purple, / of the city of Thyatira, / which worshipped God, heard us: / whose heart the Lord opened, / that she attended unto the things / which were spoken of Paul. Acts 16:14.* Explain the old words: **a seller of purple** means her work was selling purple, and **attended unto** means listened carefully. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The Lord opened Lydia's heart, and she obeyed. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when the Bible is read, listen with your whole heart, like Lydia. Then do one thing to welcome someone, like Lydia did.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Lydia word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/lydia-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/lydia-craft), or **Come Into My House:** set a chair as Lydia's door. One child stands at the door and says, "Come into my house!" Another child comes in, and the first child shows one kind way to welcome a guest (give them a seat, say "I'm glad you came," share a snack). Take turns until everyone has welcomed someone.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your Word. Open our hearts like You opened Lydia's heart, so we listen and obey right away. Help us welcome others in our homes and at church. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks who was in Lydia's household: the Bible says "her household" (Acts 16:15), the people who lived in her house, but it does not tell us who they were, so we don't guess.

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