

FAITH TREK
LYDIA, PAUL & SILAS
MAY 11 - JUNE 1
LYDIA, SELLER OF PURPLE CLOTH

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Acts 16:11-40

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:6-7

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NRSV)

PURPOSE: (Overall concepts)

Students will learn that:

- Paul was an important missionary for the early church (some disciples travel like Paul and Silas while others stay put, like Lydia & the jailer)
- The good news that Paul and Silas were sharing is for everyone (Lydia was rich, the jailer was a Roman, they looked for people to convert).
- God helped Paul share his faith with Jews *and* gentiles (people who were not Jewish)
- *Conversion, to convert* or *to be a convert* means to change one's mind, or to believe one thing, then change to believe something else. Lydia believed in God, but didn't know about Jesus Christ until Paul taught her. Then she believed it and she and her friends got baptized in the river.
- Lydia used what she had so Paul and Silas felt welcome and invited them to her home.
- Lydia and her friends started the first Christian church in Europe, probably in Lydia's home, or near the river where they were baptized.

OBJECTIVES: (for this workshop)

Students will be able to:

- Tell the story of Paul and Silas traveling to Europe, and their meeting of Lydia.
- Understand that Lydia was a seller of purple cloth. Purple cloth was difficult to make so usually only royalty could afford it. Lydia was probably a wealthy woman with her own business. This was not common in those days.
- Lydia's hospitality was important enough to be put in the Bible story. We should be hospitable too (welcoming, warm, open, sharing, generous, sociable, friendly, kind).

PREPARATION:

- Read the Scripture passage(s) and attend the Faith Trek Leaders Bible Study, **Wednesday, May 7th at 6:00 pm**. This study is very important. Please RSVP to the church office.
- Prepare a closing prayer.
- Check out the room before your first Sunday workshop. Locate any supplies you may need in the Christian Education resource room. Jeanne Crabb will be able to assist you.

MATERIALS LIST:

- One white cloth (handkerchief or bandana) per child.
- Purple paint, purple dye, purple food coloring. We are using spray on fabric dye. Optional: one or two contrasting colors. Purple should be your main color.

- Spray bottle.
- Water.
- Stencils or objects to spray around. We'll use symbols of Christ and Christianity cut out of contact paper, and objects that will provide patterns or texture (mesh, lace, doilies...).

PRESENTATION:

Opening- Introduction:

- Greet the children, introduce yourself. Wear your nametag. Make sure the children are wearing theirs. Ask the class shepherd to supply temporary tags for guests.
- Explain the purpose of this workshop. Use kid-friendly words to give a brief overview of what the children are going to learn and do.

Main Content

- Review the story using kid friendly words, highlighting Paul and Silas traveling in their second mission trip to Philippi, how they went by the river to look for people to speak to about Christ, and how Lydia, a seller of purple of cloth, and her household (maybe friends, servants, family) were willing to listen and be baptized. We can become baptized when we are ready to tell the world that we believe in Christ as the Son of God and that we are ready to change and try to be more like Jesus. Lydia, her friends, and the jailer all listened to what Paul taught and wanted to change their lives and ways of believing.
- Review the Memory Verse for this rotation. Define tough words like "supplication" (to pray for, request, ask for).
- Following the instructions on the spray dye, tie-dye, stencil, or reverse stencil purple designs and backgrounds onto the white cloths. Talk about the symbols of Christ and what they mean. Talk about Christ and ways we have been converted or changed in His name.

Discussion:

- How many of you have been baptized? How did that feel? Different than before?
- Have you ever taught someone about Christ who didn't know before?
- Who teaches you about Christ?
- How was Lydia different than many other women in the Bible?
- How was Paul able to change the minds of Lydia and the jailer?

Reflection and closing time:

- Review memory verse again.
- Closing prayer.

Dear God, Thank you for the stories about Lydia, Paul and the jailer. Please give US the words so that we can spread the Good News about Jesus Christ just like Paul. Amen.

- Tidy room. Turn off lights. Turn down thermostat to 55°.

AUTHOR: Robin Crabb

This story happens *after* Jesus was alive, and killed on the cross, then came back to speak to the disciples, and then went to be with God... There was a man named Saul who never met Jesus, and he didn't think believing in Jesus was the right way to believe in God. He worked hard at getting people to believe in God *without* Jesus. But one day, Jesus Christ appeared to Saul! A light from the sky flashed all around. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Persecution means to be against and talk bad about something. At that moment, Saul understood that Jesus was the special love between God and people that his Jewish church had taught him! Saul was *converted* (he changed his mind about Jesus and knew he had been wrong). He felt like a whole new person -- he got baptized and even changed his name to PAUL. So Paul became a disciple, a follower of Jesus, but he was a disciple that traveled... ALOT! We call people like that *missionaries*. He walked and rode boats for THOUSANDS of miles so he could tell other people about Jesus. Paul believed that *every* kind of person should be able to learn about Jesus, not just Jewish people. Paul traveled and traveled, and people listened to him teach about God and Jesus and some of them changed *their* minds and believed what he was saying. One day Paul and his friend Silas traveled to a place called Philippi. They walked around looking for people to teach, and went down by a river where they thought people might go to pray. They sat down with a group of women who were willing to listen. One of the women was named Lydia. We don't know much about Lydia, but we do know that she had her own business selling purple cloth. Purple cloth was expensive because it was very hard to make back then and only rich people could afford it. Lydia had plenty of money because her customers were rich. Most women back in those days didn't have their own business or lots of money, so Lydia was a special woman. The women that were there were probably her friends, family, and maybe servants. While Paul spoke, God opened Lydia's heart and mind and she was converted to believe in Jesus. Just like Paul, she had known about God, but now Paul made her realize that Jesus Christ needed to be part of that belief too. Lydia and all the women were baptized in the river and Lydia invited the travelers to stay in her home and she shared with them whatever she had. Once, when Paul and Silas and their friends were going to the place of prayer by the river, they saw a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that allowed her to tell people's fortunes. She would tell fortunes for money that she gave to her slave owners. She called out loudly every time Paul would walk by, "These men are *slaves of God*, and they *promise* you a way to be saved." She kept doing this for many days. Paul was very annoyed, and finally said to the spirit in the girl, "I *order* you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And the spirit left. After that the owners of the slave girl could not make money from her fortune telling any more. That made them mad and they made up stories about Paul. They told the magistrates, people who were like mayors, "These men are

disturbing our city; they are Jews, and they are trying to get us to do things and believe in things that we don't have to because we are Romans." The crowd began to attack Paul and Silas, and the mayors had their clothes stripped off and ordered them to be beaten. After they had given them a terrible beating, they threw them into prison and ordered the jail guard to lock them up and make sure they couldn't get out. Following his instructions, the jail guard, or jailer, put them in a room way in the middle of the prison and locked up their feet in chains. At about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs of praise to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a huge earthquake that shook the whole prison, and all the doors opened and everyone's chains came apart! The jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, and he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself, because he was sure everyone had escaped and he would be in very big trouble for letting them get out. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not hurt yourself, we are all here!" The jailer ran in and fell down shaking before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. The jailer washed their wounds; then he and his whole family got baptized. He brought them into the house and fed them; and he and his family and servants celebrated because he had become a Christian. When morning came, the mayors sent the police to say, "Let Paul and Silas go." The jailer gave Paul the message, saying, "The mayors sent a message to let you go; so you can come out now and go in peace." But Paul said, "*What?* They have beaten us in public... without any good reason... we are Roman citizens... and they have thrown us into prison... and *now* they are going to let us go in *secret*? I don't *think* so! Let them come here and take us out themselves." The police told the mayors what Paul said, and they were afraid when they found out that they were Roman citizens; so they came and said they were sorry, and they asked Paul and Silas to leave the city. After leaving the prison, Paul and Silas went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the members of Lydia's new home church, they continued on their travels. Lydia and the people she knew started the first Christian church in Europe in or near her home. Paul would go on to travel to many other places and write letters to the people he had taught about Jesus. Some of those letters were written to the people in Philippi, like Lydia and her friends, and the jailer and his family. His letters always tried to make the people remember Jesus and have faith that God was with them.