

# Lydia Is Converted

Acts 16:9-15

Third- and fourth-graders love to share good news. They also care deeply for their friends. As they realize that not all people have heard God's message of salvation, they will want to share this news. Encourage children to pray for their friends, to learn all they can about the Bible so they can teach their friends, and to rely on God to give them opportunities to share with those they love. If children learn to boldly talk of their faith now, they'll have fewer fears as adults.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	Get Ready (about 10 min.) Figure out how to be prepared for various situations.	index cards, pen	Write each of the following phrases on a separate index card: "a camping trip," "a test," "a trip to an amusement park," and "a baseball game in which you are playing first base."
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	Go! (about 15 min.) Learn how Paul was always ready to go tell people about Jesus.	Bible	
	In Season and Out (about 20 min.) Write postcards to children who need to hear about Jesus.	Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, scissors	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



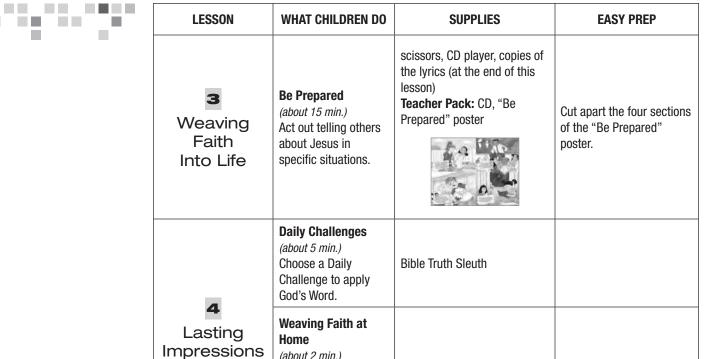


► Bible Point Be prepared to tell others about Jesus.

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Key Verse
"Preach the Word; be
prepared in season
and out of season"
(2 Timothy 4:2).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will tell others about Jesus.



**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.

(about 2 min.)
Talk about how to share what they learned with their

families.



# Lydia Is Converted

Acts 16:9-15



#### **God Alters Paul's Plans**

Although Paul had other plans, he didn't hesitate to change them when he had clear direction from God in a vision. The text says that they "got ready at once to leave for Macedonia." And looking back on the effect Paul's missionary journeys had on that part of the world, we see that God's strategy in leading Paul where he did only improved Paul's original plan.

Whenever Paul came to a new city, he made it a practice to go to the local Jewish synagogue on the Sabbath to see if an opportunity would arise to share the message of Jesus with the Jews meeting there. However, there must not have been a synagogue in Philippi. It took 10 Jewish males to constitute a synagogue, but Jewish men must have been lacking. Instead, a group of Jewish or God-fearing women met at an informal meeting place outside the city. Paul and his team found this meeting and told the women there about Jesus. Paul didn't hesitate to give them his time and attention. He wanted to reach everyone he could with God's message of grace.

## Lydia Becomes the First **European Convert**

Lydia, the leader of this little group, was a dealer in purple cloth. Purple dye was extremely costly, and anyone able to deal in it had to be wealthy. For a woman to be successful and wealthy on her own was unusual in that culture, and it says a lot about Lydia. This woman was the first person in Europe who Paul led to faith in Christ.

Why were all the members of Lydia's household baptized? Though Luke concentrates on the story of Lydia, that doesn't mean that others in her family weren't present and didn't believe on their own. Her children and any servants in her household likely followed her example and believed in Jesus.

#### The Jesus Connection

Paul didn't waste time wondering about what God wanted. He knew. As you spend time with Jesus through Bible study and prayer, sense his will for you and make it your own.

Lydia was a standout in her society, impressive by

too timid to share the love of Christ with them? Even the least "needy" need Jesus. Choose one person to share God's love with in the coming week. Pray for that person. You can write your prayer here.			



## Get Ready Supplies

index cards pen

## Get Ready Easy Prep

Write each of the following phrases on a separate index card: "a camping trip," "a test," "a trip to an amusement park," and "a baseball game in which you are playing first base."



# **Get Ready**

#### What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form four groups, and give one card to each group.

Say: In your group, talk about what you need to do to be prepared for what's written on your card. You'll have a few minutes to talk about it and will then present your answers to the rest of the class.

When kids have finished talking, have each group make its presentation. After each group has made its presentation, give kids the following additions to their scenarios:

- A camping trip: You went on a day hike, and bears ate all of your food.
- A test: You've studied for a spelling test, but when you get to school, you discover you're actually having a math test.
- A trip to an amusement park: You've been at the park an hour, and it starts raining—hard.
- A baseball game in which you are playing first base: Your team's pitcher breaks his arm, and you now have to pitch.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

#### Ask:

- How did you feel when you found out there was more to your situation than you had thought?
- How could you have prepared for the additional situations in your scenario?
- How can you be prepared to tell others about Jesus?

Say: It's not always easy to know how to be prepared for every situation. In today's lesson, we'll learn how we can ▶ BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.





#### **EXPLORATION**

# Go!

#### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 16:9-10, and show it to the kids. Have kids sit or lie on the floor, close their eyes, and pretend to sleep.

Say: Our Bible story today comes from Acts 16.

Read aloud Acts 16:9-10.

Say: We need to go to Macedonia! The people there need to know about Jesus! Pack your bags!

Have kids sit up and pretend to pack bags.

Say: We're going on a boat ride to get to Macedonia. Let's go!

Have kids hold out their arms and touch their fingertips together to form a V shape. This will represent the bow of a boat. Then have kids pretend to journey on the sea from Troas to Samothrace to Neapolis and finally to Philippi as you read Acts 16:11-12.

Say: When they reached Philippi, Paul and his companions stayed for several days. On the Sabbath day, they went to a river to find a place to pray. Let's find out what happened at the river.

Designate one area of your room as the river, and have kids walk to it and sit down. Read aloud Acts 16:13-15.

Say: The Bible doesn't tell us why the women were there, but it does tell us that one of the women, Lydia, was a worshipper of God. Even if they were there to worship God, they didn't know about Jesus. They needed someone to tell them.

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

#### Ask:

- How did Paul react as soon as he was told to go tell others about Jesus?
- When should we tell others about Jesus?



## Go! Supplies

Bible



# In Season and Out Supplies

Bible Bible Truth Sleuth pens scissors

### In Season and Out Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Say: Paul was ready to tell others about Jesus. He showed that by leaving for Macedonia as soon as he was told to go. When he met a group of people there who needed to know about Jesus, he could tell them about him. We can ▶ BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS at any time, too. Let's take a look at our Key Verse for today to see what it says about being ready.

# In Season and Out

#### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 4:2, and read the Key Verse aloud: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2).

#### Ask:

What does it mean to "preach the Word"?

Say: Preaching the Word is telling others what the Bible says. When we tell others about Jesus, we're preaching the Word.

#### Ask:

When should we tell others about Jesus?

Say: We should be prepared in season and out of season, or all the time, to tell others about Jesus. We should always watch for opportunities to tell people what we believe.

Today you'll have an opportunity to tell someone who you don't know about Jesus.

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "In Season and Out" activity.

Say: We're going to write postcards to people in another country to tell them about Jesus. So on the postcard in your Bible Truth Sleuth, write something you know about Jesus. Then cut the postcard from the bottom of your page. We'll give our postcards to a missionary to give to kids who need to know about Jesus.

Share with kids that just as Paul was a missionary who traveled from place to place, we have missionaries today who do the same thing. Let them know that even if the kids in the country the postcards are sent to don't speak English, a missionary will translate the cards and let the kids know what the postcards say about Jesus.





# Be Prepared

#### What You'll Do

Say: We've just told people in another country about Jesus. But people live right in our own town who need to know about Jesus, too. Let's take a look at some situations and talk about how we can be prepared both in season and out of season to tell others about Jesus.

Have the class form four groups, and give each group one section of the "Be Prepared" poster.

Say: Our Key Verse says: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). Let's practice being prepared. Read the situation on your poster, and answer the question as a group.

Give each group time to answer its question. Then have each group choose a leader to share the group's ideas.

Say: God gives us many opportunities to tell others about Jesus. We should be prepared to talk with others about Jesus any time.

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

#### Ask:

- Why do other people need to hear about Jesus?
- What might happen if we don't tell others about Jesus?

Say: We should be prepared because we have an awesome God who loves us and sent his Son to die for our sins. That's news we should tell to all the nations so they might believe! Let's stand and sing "That You May Believe" (John 20:31).

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "That You May Believe" (John 20:31) (track 17). Encourage the kids to sing, referring to the copies of the lyrics.



# Be Prepared Supplies

scissors
CD player
copies of the lyrics (at
the end of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "That You May
Believe" (John 20:31)
(track 17)
"Be Prepared" poster

### Be Prepared Easy Prep

Cut apart the four sections of the "Be Prepared" poster.



But these are written that you may believe That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (Repeat.)

And that by believing, you may have life in his name. And that by believing, you may have life in his name. (Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"That You May Believe" (John 20:31) by Dean-o. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



LASTING

#### **IMPRESSIONS**

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

# Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to remind us to ▶ BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Invite your friend over to watch a movie with you, and tell him or her about Jesus—while sharing some popcorn, too!
- Tell each of your family members about Jesus.
- When the mail is delivered to your house, tell the postal worker about Jesus' love.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

#### Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: We need to ▶ BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Let's practice telling others about Jesus by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Spring Quarter

Lesson 10

Grades 3 & 4





# Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about telling others about Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close in prayer. Pray: Thank you, God, for giving us opportunities to tell others about your Son. Help us to be prepared "in season and out of season" every day. We love you, Lord, and want others to know what you have done. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.





## Lyrics

# That You May Believe (John 20:31)

But these are written that you may believe That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (Repeat.)

And that by believing, you may have life in his name. And that by believing, you may have life in his name. (Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

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