



# Lydia Is Converted

Acts 16:9-15

Five- and six-year-olds naturally talk to others about things that are important to them. Encourage kids to talk about what they think is important to know about Jesus. Talk with your children about sharing their love for Jesus and telling their friends that they can know Jesus, too. Remind your children to tell others the exciting news about Jesus that they've learned from the Bible.



### ► Bible Point

Everyone needs Jesus.

### Key Verse

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>One Day</b> Sing a song, and share Bible pictures with others.	Bibles, picture Bibles, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what purple fabric has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, purple fabric <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place the purple fabric in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Discover what happened when Paul told Lydia about Jesus.	Bible, My Bible Playground, cups of water, paintbrushes, washable markers, purple fabric, pencils, newspaper	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

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



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: Everyone Needs Jesus</b> Build a make-believe marketplace, and pretend to be Lydia and Paul.</p>	<p>magazine pictures of people; wooden blocks; masking tape; small toys such as miniature animals and food; small pieces of fabric</p>	<p>Cut out pictures from magazines to represent kids and adults from all over the world who need Jesus. Be sure to have a good ethnic and generational mix, and try to include people with special needs.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Purple Pops Snacks</b> Create marshmallow pops and dye them purple.</p>	<p>grape juice, large marshmallows, large pretzel sticks, paper plates, cups</p>	
	<p><b>Center 3: A Church for Jesus</b> Draw a picture of a church and then decorate it.</p>	<p>white construction paper, pencils, white liquid glue, Pixy Stix, newsprint</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: Lydia's Generous Gift Bags</b> Make gift bags to later fill with presents for others.</p>	<p>1 paper lunch sack and 1 sheet of colorful tissue paper per child, ribbon, scissors, markers, stickers, hole punches</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p><b>"Good News" Prayer</b> Tell a friend something they know about Jesus.</p>	<p>magazine pictures of people from the "Everyone Needs Jesus" activity</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





# Lydia Is Converted

Acts 16:9-15

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## God Alters Paul’s Plans

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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

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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

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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 any standard. Do you feel intimidated by others and 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.

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### Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "We Welcome You  
to Church Today"  
(track 15)

## 1 GETTING STARTED


### Welcoming Song

**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

#### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "We Welcome You to Church Today" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Tell the children to stand up and greet each other as they sing and march around the room. Encourage the children to shake hands with one another when they sing the words "We welcome you to church today."

 **We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!**  
**We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!**  
**We welcome you to church today.**  
**We're here to worship and to pray**  
**As we sing together,**  
**Learning about God's love.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### One Day

#### What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Acts 16:31, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is Acts 16:31 which says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." This means that when we believe in Jesus, he saves us and we can one day go to heaven.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse together several times.

### One Day Supplies

Bibles

picture Bibles

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Good News"  
(track 18)





**The news that we can be saved by believing in Jesus is good news! Jesus wants us to tell others this good news. Let's do an activity that will help us think about all the good news that we can share with others.**

Bring out as many children's picture Bibles as you have. Help children form the same number of groups as there are Bibles. (There should be a minimum of three children in each group.) Then give each group a picture Bible. Instruct the children in each group to stand up and form a straight line. Have the first child in line choose his or her favorite picture; then begin the CD and have kids sing "The Good News" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "The B-I-B-L-E" as the first child walks down the line showing the picture to the other kids in line. When the child has reached the end of the line, have kids pass the Bible back down the line. The child who is now the first in line can choose a picture and repeat the process. Re-cue the CD as necessary, and have kids continue singing until all the children in line have had a chance to show their pictures.



**Tell about the good news.**

**Tell about God's Word.**

**Tell about the good news**

**So Jesus can be heard.**

**Jesus came to save us.**

**Jesus came to die.**

**Jesus came to save us all;**

**On him you can rely.**

**Tell about the good news.**

**Tell about God's Word.**

**Tell about the good news**

**So Jesus can be heard.**

*(Repeat 3x.)*

Ask:

- **How did you feel showing your friends the picture about the good news of Jesus?**
- **Why do you think God wants people to know the good news that we can believe in Jesus?**
- **How can you show others that you believe in Jesus?**

Lead children in saying the Key Verse one more time.





### Theo's News Supplies

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box will do)  
Theo puppet  
purple fabric  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the purple fabric in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

### Bible Time Supplies

Bible  
My Bible Playground  
cups of water  
paintbrushes  
washable markers  
purple fabric  
pencils  
newspaper

### Bible Time Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

**Theo:** It's something very interesting. I hid it in the Surprise Box.

**Teacher:** Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the purple cloth around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** What are some things we might be able to do or make from this purple cloth? *(Pause and allow children to share ideas.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide purple cloth in the Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Our Bible story today tells us about a lady who sold beautiful purple cloth like this. Isn't it pretty, boys and girls?

**Teacher:** Let's find out who the lady was and who she told about Jesus.

**Theo:** Have a good time today, boys and girls! I'll see you later!

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

## Bible Time

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS.** Open your Bible to Acts 16:9-15, and show the children the words.

**In our Bible story today, Paul had a vision (like a dream) about a man from a place called Macedonia. In Paul's vision, a man begged him, "Please come to Macedonia and help us!" Paul knew Macedonia was a big place with lots of towns where the people hadn't heard about Jesus. Paul was so excited! He knew God had given him that dream, so he told his friends to pack right away because they were leaving at once.**

Have kids stand up and pretend to pack items in a suitcase or backpack.





**So Paul and his friends left for Macedonia. They wanted to see how God would use them to tell the Macedonians that God loved the people and that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS.** Have kids line up and walk in a circle, dragging their make-believe suitcases behind them.

**Paul and his friends got into a boat and sailed across the sea.** Have kids pretend to row a boat. **When they got to the region of Macedonia, they got out of their boat and walked to one of the biggest cities, called Philippi.**

**There Paul and his friends met a lady named Lydia. She was smart, creative, and made lots of money selling purple cloth to people so they could make fancy clothes.** Hold up the purple fabric. **Let's decorate purple fabrics like the ones Lydia might have designed to sell.**

Give kids their My Bible Playground student pages, and let them use pencils to write their names at the top. Cover a table with newspaper, and set out the other supplies. Instruct kids to use the markers to decorate the piece of fabric on their student pages to look like the fabric Lydia might have sold at the marketplace. When kids have finished using the markers, allow the children to lightly brush water over the pages, blending the colors to create shades of purple. Set the student pages aside to dry, and have kids return to the circle to continue the Bible story.

Say: **Unlike many of the people in Macedonia, Lydia worshipped God; but she didn't know that Jesus was God's Son who had come to bring forgiveness for everyone. Paul knew that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS, so he told Lydia all that Jesus had done and how much Jesus loved her.**

**Lydia was the first woman in Europe to learn about Jesus. Because Paul listened to God and went to Macedonia, Lydia and her household learned about Jesus and were baptized. Many more people in that area of the world heard about the good news of Jesus because Paul wasn't afraid to tell anyone—even a rich and successful woman like Lydia—that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS. Let's pretend to be Lydia and tell our friends that we all need Jesus, as Lydia may have done.**

Bring over the children's student pages, and have kids stand in a circle. Let kids take turns pretending to be Lydia at the marketplace. Have children each walk around the inside of the circle showing their friends the purple fabric they have created to sell. As the children show what they created, have them tell their friends that ► **EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think is exciting about Jesus?
- Who will you talk to this week about Jesus?

Say: **Lydia was so thankful to Paul and his friends for coming and telling her about Jesus that she invited them to her house to stay with her whenever they were in town. We can all get excited and tell our friends that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS.**





### Center 1: Everyone Needs Jesus Supplies

magazine pictures of people  
wooden blocks  
masking tape  
small toys such as miniature animals and food  
small pieces of fabric

### Center 1: Everyone Needs Jesus Easy Prep

Cut out pictures from magazines to represent kids and adults from all over the world who need Jesus. Be sure to have a good ethnic and generational mix, and try to include people with special needs.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Everyone Needs Jesus

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place small pieces of masking tape (about 1½ inches long) on the edge of a table, and show kids how to roll the pieces of tape, sticky side out, to attach the magazine pictures to wooden blocks so the figures stand up.

Have kids use extra blocks or other items in the classroom to build a marketplace where the block people can buy and sell things such as pieces of fabric, miniature toy animals, or food items. As the children re-create a marketplace like the one in which Lydia may have sold her goods, encourage kids to pretend to be Lydia or another merchant. Other children might pretend to be Paul and tell their friends what they know about Jesus and that ► **EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Where are some places that you could tell people about Jesus?**
- **What would you tell someone about Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus wants us to tell people that they need him. Jesus has done so much for us, and he wants to do the same for others. We should tell everyone, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."**







**CENTER 2:**

## Purple Pops Snacks

### What You'll Do

Have the children wash their hands (or use wet wipes) before they begin making the snacks. Give each child a plate with two large marshmallows and a large pretzel stick, plus a small cup of purple grape juice. Ask one of the children to thank God for providing today's snacks.

Show kids how to create Purple Pops by placing a large marshmallow on the end of a pretzel stick. Let kids discover what happens when they dip their marshmallows into the grape juice. Remind kids that Lydia is remembered in the Bible for being the first woman in Macedonia (a part of Europe today) to hear the good news about Jesus.

**CENTER 3:**

## A Church for Jesus

### What You'll Do

Cover a table with newsprint. Set out white construction paper, pencils, white liquid glue, and Pixy Stix.

Say: **God sent Paul to Macedonia to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Because Paul obeyed God, Lydia and the people in Macedonia learned about Jesus. Now Christians meet in buildings called churches all over the world to share how the good news of Jesus has changed their lives.**

**First, use the pencils to draw a church building. Then you can rub the glue onto different areas of the church and sprinkle powder over the glue, as you would sprinkle glitter, to decorate your church.** Allow time while kids work.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think we build churches today?
- Who could you invite to come to our church?

Say: **A church building is a place where people can come together to celebrate the good news of Jesus. We can make a church building from wood or bricks—but we can tell people the good news about Jesus wherever we are, just like Paul and his friends did.**



### Center 2: Purple Pops Snacks Supplies

- grape juice
- large marshmallows
- large pretzel sticks
- paper plates
- cups

### ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 3: A Church for Jesus Supplies

- white construction paper
- pencils
- white liquid glue
- Pixy Stix
- newsprint





#### Center 4: Lydia's Generous Gift Bags Supplies

1 paper lunch sack and  
1 sheet of colorful  
tissue paper per child  
ribbon  
scissors  
markers  
stickers  
hole punches

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

### CENTER 4:

## Lydia's Generous Gift Bags

### What You'll Do

Provide a paper lunch bag for each child to use to create a gift bag. Place scissors, hole punches, a variety of ribbon, stickers, and markers where children can reach them. Have one sheet of colorful tissue paper per child nearby.

Say: **Lydia was thankful that Paul and his friends told her about Jesus. She invited them to her home and fed them and gave them a place to sleep. She was generous with them and gave them the gift of hospitality. Let us be generous like Lydia, too. We'll each make a gift bag. When you get home, you can put a small gift inside this bag and give it to a friend or family member.**

Have children use a hole punch to make a series of holes along the top edges of their bags. Kids can lace ribbon through the punched holes and leave excess ribbon as a handle for carrying their gift bags. Let children personalize the bags with stickers and artwork. Show children how to insert one piece of colored tissue paper in the bags so they're ready to use. All that's missing is the gift for the occasion! Ask children to share ideas for inexpensive gifts that could go in the bags.

Say: **Paul knew that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS. He shared about Jesus with Lydia, and she shared what she had with him in return. As you give these gift bags and gifts to others, remember to share about God's love as well!**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to tell others about Jesus.**



Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Bring a friend at school a candy bar, and tell him or her about Jesus' love.  
Everyone needs Jesus!**
2. **Tell each of your family members about Jesus and his love for them.**
3. **Bring your neighbor some cookies with a note attached, telling him or her that everyone needs Jesus.**

Say: **If you want to bring something to a friend, circle choice number 1. If you want to tell your family about Jesus, circle choice number 2. If you want to bring cookies to a neighbor, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## “Good News” Prayer

### What You'll Do

Remove the magazine pictures of people (used in the “Everyone Needs Jesus” activity) from the blocks. Have kids sit in a circle, and place the pictures in the center of the circle.

Say: **Close your eyes and think of one good thing you know about Jesus; then open your eyes. We're going to take turns around the circle choosing a magazine picture and handing the picture to a classroom friend in our circle. When you hand the picture to your friend, tell him or her the good thing you know about Jesus, and then sit back down.** Let the child on your left go first, and then have each child choose another child to tell about Jesus. When everyone who wants to has participated, lead kids in saying the following prayer.

**Dear God,  
Thank you for helping me tell everyone the good news about Jesus.  
In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



### “Good News” Prayer Supplies

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magazine pictures  
of people from the  
“Everyone Needs  
Jesus” activity



