



# Lydia Is Converted

Acts 16:9-15

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to recognize their need to explore and articulate what their own faith consists of—separate from the faith of their parents. This lesson provides kids with a great opportunity to learn how to put their own faith into words and prepare to share it with others. As you guide kids to explore their own faith stories, be open to questions they may have about their beliefs or the beliefs of others.



## ►Bible Point

Be prepared to tell others about Jesus.

## Key Verse

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season”  
(2 Timothy 4:2).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will practice telling others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Preparing for the Journey</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Prepare for an imaginary journey.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Paul’s and Lydia’s Journeys</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Write travel journal entries from Paul’s and Lydia’s points of view, and pantomime what happened on their journeys.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens	
	<b>Getting the Message Across</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game in which they share messages, and discuss how to share the message of Jesus.	slips of paper, pens	

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





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b>	<p><b>Time of Day</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Read the Key Verse together, think of ways they could share Christ at assigned hours of the day, and commit to sharing Christ at specific times.</p>	Bible Buzz, newsprint, pens, tape, 1 index card per person, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Clock Cards" 	Draw a large clock face on a sheet of newsprint, and display it.  Separate the "Clock Cards."
<b>4</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Buzz	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> 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**

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 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.



**Preparing for the Journey Supplies**

Bible Buzz pens

**Preparing for the Journey Easy Prep**

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Preparing for the Journey

### What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, have students sit in a circle. Distribute pens and Bible Buzz pages, and direct students to find the “My Journey” section.

Say: **Today you’re going to take a journey. I want you to think about trips you’ve taken and answer the questions in your Bible Buzz. After you’ve finished this, we’ll share our experiences.**

Give students several minutes to complete the “My Journey” section.

Say: **Well, the first part of any journey is preparing for it. So I’d like each of you to share one thing you wrote that you would need to do or pack in order to prepare for your journey. We’ll go around the circle and take turns sharing our thoughts. If someone else is packing or doing the same things as you are, we’ll move on to the next person.**

Have students share their thoughts. Continue until kids have shared everything they can think of to prepare for a journey. Encourage kids to write the group’s responses in the Bible Buzz.

Say: **Wow! That’s a lot to pack and do, isn’t it?**

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why are all of the things we listed important in preparing for a journey?
- Are any of them more important than others? Explain.

Say: **In today’s story, we’ll hear about and experience one of Paul’s journeys. We’ll meet the people he met and see what happened along the way. During our journey, we’ll be searching for the answer to the question “When should we tell others about Jesus?” We’ll also be learning more about ways we can ► BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

**2****BIBLE  
EXPLORATION**

## Paul's and Lydia's Journeys

### What You'll Do

Say: Welcome to Faith-Share Tours! Today marks the beginning of your journey into the world of sharing Christ with others. Your guides for this tour will be Paul and Lydia. They'll be taking you right into their worlds and showing you their own important examples of sharing faith. Prepare for the ride of your life!

Give each person a Bible.

Say: To begin the journey, I'd like each of you to read some background information. Turn to Acts 16:9-15, and read briefly about Paul's and Lydia's journeys. As you read, think about what it would be like to experience each of these journeys. Keep in mind that Paul's travels were more like actual travels than Lydia's. Her journey was more internal, so you'll also want to consider what she might have been feeling and thinking. What do you think it might have been like for Lydia to meet Paul and to make the decision on the spot to follow Christ?

Give students a few minutes to read the passage, and then have students form groups of four. Have students turn to "Faith-Share Tours" in Bible Buzz, and give each group pens.

Say: Now that you have a thumbnail sketch of Paul's and Lydia's journeys, I'd like you to dig deeper into what really happened. I'll assign each group a character and a section of the Scripture passage. Each of you will be writing a travel journal from your character's point of view. You'll need to include plenty of tangible details in your journal entry, including what you saw, felt, touched, tasted, and smelled. Include in your journal entry all the details revealed in your passage.

Assign these characters and Scripture sections to groups (it's okay if more than one group has the same character and Scripture):

- Paul (Acts 16:9-13)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)

When kids have finished, say: Now you'll be sharing your journal entries with the whole group. But rather than just reading them aloud, you're actually going to demonstrate what happened. Assign one person in your group to be the Reader. He or she will read the journal entry aloud while the rest of you pantomime. For example, if your group said that Paul became seasick on the ship, you might all pretend to "heave" over the side of a ship. I'll give you a few moments to prepare your pantomimes.

After a few minutes, have each group read and pantomime its journal entry.

### Paul's and Lydia's Journeys Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would it have been like to travel with Paul? with Lydia?
- What do you think Paul and Lydia needed to do to prepare for their respective journeys?
- How do you think Paul would answer the question “When should we tell others about Jesus?”
- How do you think Lydia would answer the same question?
- When do you think you should tell others about Jesus?
- How could you prepare to tell others about Jesus?

Say: Let's discover some ways to ► BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

## Getting the Message Across Supplies

slips of paper  
pens

## Getting the Message Across

### What You'll Do

Give each group of four a stack of slips of paper and pens.

Say: On each one of these slips of paper, I'd like you to write one message about Jesus that you'd like to share with others. For example, you might write, “Jesus loves you!” or “Jesus shows you how to live.”

Give groups several minutes to write their messages. When they've finished, say: We're going to play a game of Share the Message. In your group, I'd like you to designate two members to be Travelers and the other two to be Receivers. In each group, one Traveler and Receiver pair needs to take half of the group's messages and go to the opposite side of the room. Give groups time to form pairs.

Say: Here's how this game works: One Traveler will take a message, run to the other side of the room, and hand the message to the Receiver. The Receiver will read the message aloud. Then the Traveler on that side will take a message, run to the other side, and give the message to another Receiver, who will read it aloud. Continue until all of your messages have been delivered. Ready? It's time to share the message!

When the game is finished, have students gather in the center of the room.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did the Travelers need to do in order to get their messages delivered in this game?
- What did the Receivers need to do in order to receive their messages?



- How did it feel to share these messages about Jesus? Explain.
- How would your feelings change if you had done this activity in your school lunchroom with your classmates all around? Explain.

Say: Sharing the truth about Jesus takes courage and cooperation. Everyone had to work together to make this game successful. The message needed to be simple and easy to understand, the Traveler needed to be prepared to share the message at any time, and the Receiver needed to be ready to receive the message and then pass it on.

God wants us to work together in this same way to pass his message along to others.

Ask:

- When should we ► BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS?
- 

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Time of Day

#### What You'll Do



Have students turn to the Key Verse, 2 Timothy 4:2, in Bible Buzz: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season." Have the group read the Key Verse aloud together.

Ask:

- According to this verse, when should we tell others about Jesus?

Say: God wants us to share about Jesus in any season. This means we should always be ready to tell others about Jesus. Let's explore this idea further.

Give each person an index card and a pen.

Say: I'm going to assign each of you one of the hours of the day. When I assign you an hour, I'd like you to think of where you would be and what you would be doing during that hour on a typical day. Then I'd like you to think of a person you might tell about Jesus during that hour. Also think about how you would share Jesus with that person. For example, if your assigned hour is noon, that may be the time you're eating lunch. You might think of the new student at school who doesn't seem to know anyone yet and a way you could tell him or her about Jesus during that time. Assign an hour of the day to each student.

Say: Write the time I've assigned you on your card. When you've thought of someone you can tell about Jesus during that hour and how you can share, write your ideas also on your card. Then bring your index card forward, and tape it to the clock picture on your assigned hour.

#### Time of Day Supplies

Bible Buzz  
newsprint  
pens  
tape  
1 index card per person  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Let's Go!"  
(Ephesians 2:10)  
(track 21)  
"Clock Cards"

#### Time of Day Easy Prep

Draw a large clock face on a sheet of newsprint, and display it.

Separate the "Clock Cards."



Give students time to do this, and then ask them to share with the group what they wrote on their cards.

Give each person one of the “Clock Cards” from the Teacher Pack.

**Say:** These are great ideas! I’d like you to write on your “Clock Card” a time of day by drawing hands on the clock. Then on the back of the card, think of someone you’d like to share Jesus with during that time and a way you can share. You could write the same ideas you wrote on your index card, or you could write something completely different. I’d like you to keep your “Clock Card” where you’ll see it, so it will remind you not only to be prepared to share Jesus with the person you thought of but also to share with many other people around you.

Allow students a few minutes to fill in their “Clock Cards.”

Then pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “Let’s Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) (track 21 on the CD). Have kids refer to the lyrics pages.

 We are God’s workmanship,  
Created in Christ Jesus  
To do good works, which  
God prepared in advance for us to do.  
*(Repeat.)*

**Let’s go! There’s work to do.**  
**Let’s go! That means me and you.**  
**God calls us, so...let’s go!**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**Let’s go! There’s work to do.**  
**Let’s go! That means me and you.**  
**God calls us, so...**  
**Let’s go!**  
**Let’s go!**  
**Let’s go!**

“Let’s Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Say:** This song encourages us to be ready to share Jesus with others at any time.





## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS



### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

#### What You'll Do

Say: Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember how to  
► BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Buzz 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!**
- **With a family member, visit a nursing home and find someone to talk to about Jesus.**
- **Write a note to a teacher or other adult you know, telling him or her about Jesus, and then hand-deliver the note.**

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: Let's ► BE PREPARED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

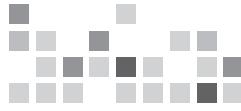
### Weaving Faith at Home

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 Buzz pages with their families.

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

Close with a prayer, thanking God for the salvation he offers and the opportunity to share Jesus with others.





## Lyrics



### Let's Go! (Ephesians 2:10)

We are God's workmanship,  
Created in Christ Jesus  
To do good works, which  
God prepared in advance for us to do.  
*(Repeat.)*

Let's go! There's work to do.  
Let's go! That means me and you.  
God calls us, so...let's go!

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Let's go! There's work to do.  
Let's go! That means me and you.  
God calls us, so...  
Let's go!  
Let's go!  
Let's go!

"Let's Go!" (Ephesians 2:10) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

