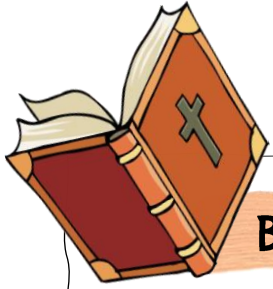


Together @ Home

May 22, 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Lydia.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 16:6-15

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank You for the story of Paul and Lydia and for their willingness to listen to and follow Your call on their lives.

Thank You also for the opportunities we have to share Your love and spread Your good news to others. Help us to be good and obedient listeners, that when we hear Your Spirit call us to service, we might not only know the ways You want us to serve, but also willingly do the things You want us to do.

Amen

Discussion

Question for adults to ask children

How did Paul know God wanted him to go to Macedonia?

Where did Paul meet Lydia?

What was Lydia's job?

What did Lydia do when she learned about Jesus?

How did Lydia serve God?

A question for children to ask adults

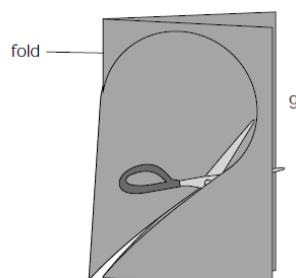
When was a time when it was very important for you to listen to someone?

A verse to remember

Acts 16:14b

"The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to respond to Paul's message."

Learn this verse together by coming up with actions to help you remember it, or by decorating the verse on a piece of paper together. One way to do this would be to fold the paper in half and cut the shape of half a heart, then write the verse on the inside of the heart.



Listening to God

The Bible story of Paul and Lydia reminds us of the importance of listening for and acting on God's call to us. Paul and Lydia knew in their hearts what God wanted them to do and each responded with actions. Paul went to preach where God told him to go. And because of Paul's obedience, Lydia believed in Jesus and welcomed Paul and other followers of Jesus into her home. In the same way, God also wants to speak to us and encourage us. Why not take some time to practice listening and hearing what God is saying to you each day.

Find a quiet space away from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable.

Pray and ask God to speak to you.

Wait and Listen.



Words

You might hear God speaking to you in your head using words or just have one word that you think of clearly.

God can speak to us in many different ways, and the more we practice the easier it becomes to recognize His voice. Just like you know the voices of people in your family, we can learn to tune in to God's voice.

Here are some of the ways God might speak to you.

Pictures

You might see a picture in your mind in the same place that you see things when you are imagining.

Feelings

You might experience a feeling from God – this could be a feeling for you or a feeling that somebody else has that God might want you to pray for.

Bible Verse

God might remind you of a verse from the Bible.

Presence

Sometimes you might not hear God but that does not mean that God is not with you. It is also good to just spend time with God in silence – ask God to help you feel that He is close to you.

Smells & Tastes

You might be able to smell or taste something that isn't there.



Is it God?

We need to have faith that what we have heard is from God, but should also test it and ask...–

Does it match with what I know God is like?

Does it match what God says in the Bible?

What does it mean?

Sometimes we need to take time to ask God to explain what we have heard or seen.

If you are still not sure why not talk about it with a grown up you trust. Sometimes God might use pictures or images from the Bible that we don't know yet but that somebody else could explain for us.

A message to share



We can also ask God for pictures or messages to share with other people. Here are some things to remember when you share words from God with others.

- 1 Corinthians 14 v 3-4 explains that God gives us messages to share **strength, encouragement, and comfort**. Only share a message if it is kind and matches what God is like and what the Bible says.
- Let the person think about what you have shared and decide for themselves how to respond to it.

From
Troas we put out to sea
and sailed straight for
Samothrace, and the next day
on to Neapolis. From there we traveled
to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading
city of that district of Macedonia. And
we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to
the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.
We sat down and began to speak to the women who
had gathered there. One of those listening was a
woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the
city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God.
The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's
message. When she and the members of her household
were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you
consider me a believer in the
Lord," she said, "come and stay at my
house." And she persuaded us
(Acts 16:11-15).

1. Where Are We?

Instructions: Put the following places in alphabetical order:

Troas	Macedonia
Samothrace	
Neapolis	
Philippi	
Macedonia	
Thyatira	

2. Who's Who?

Instructions: Draw a line from the person to the best description.

Women	This woman was a dealer in purple cloth.
Lydia	These people were baptized after Lydia.
Paul	These people were gathered at the river.
Lydia's household	This person preached the message of Jesus.

3. What's Next?

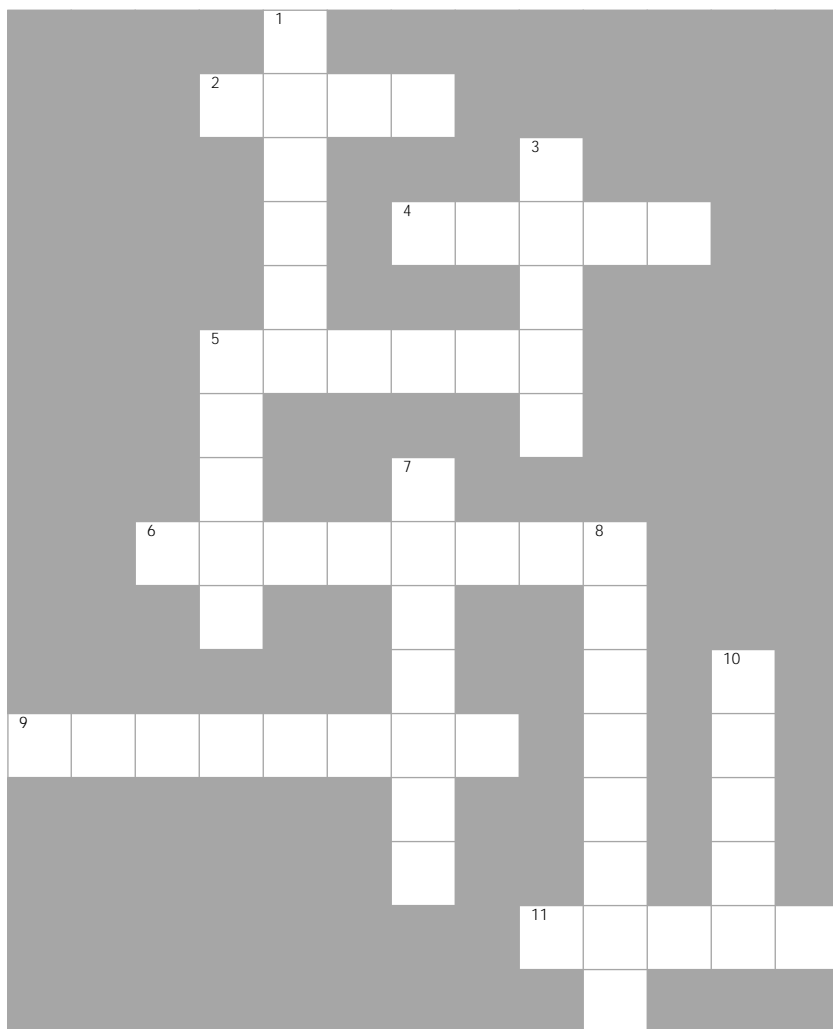
Instructions:

Put each of the events in the order that they happened in the story.

<i>Event from the Bible Story</i>	<i>Order It Appears</i>
The Lord opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	
She invited us to her home.	
On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river.	1
She and the members of her household were baptized.	
We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.	

Lydia Listened

Instructions: Complete the crossword puzzle below. Use the clues and the Word Bank below to help you.



Across

2. Lydia listened to P_____. (Acts 16:14)
4. Lydia was a dealer of purple c_____. (Acts 16:14)
5. Paul and his friends went to L____ house. (Acts 16:15)
6. Lydia was very g_____ to Paul. (hint: another word for thankful)
9. Lydia and the members of her household were b_____. (Acts 16:15)
11. The Lord opened Lydia's h_____. (Acts 16:14)

Down

1. Lydia probably had some members of her f_____ with her too.
3. Lydia invited Paul and his friends to come to her h_____. (Acts 16:15)
5. Lydia was eager to l_____ about Jesus. (Hint: see clue for 10 down.)
7. Lydia learned to b_____ in Jesus as the Son of God. (Acts 16:15)
8. Lydia l_____ to Paul's message. (Acts 16:14)
10. Lydia was e_____ to learn about Jesus. (Hint: see the clue for 5 down.)

Word Bank

baptized	purple	learn	eager	house	Lydia's	cloth
grateful	believe	listened	heart	Paul	family	



LYDIA IS BAPTIZED

Acts 16:14

As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart,
and she accepted what Paul was saying.



Family Devotional



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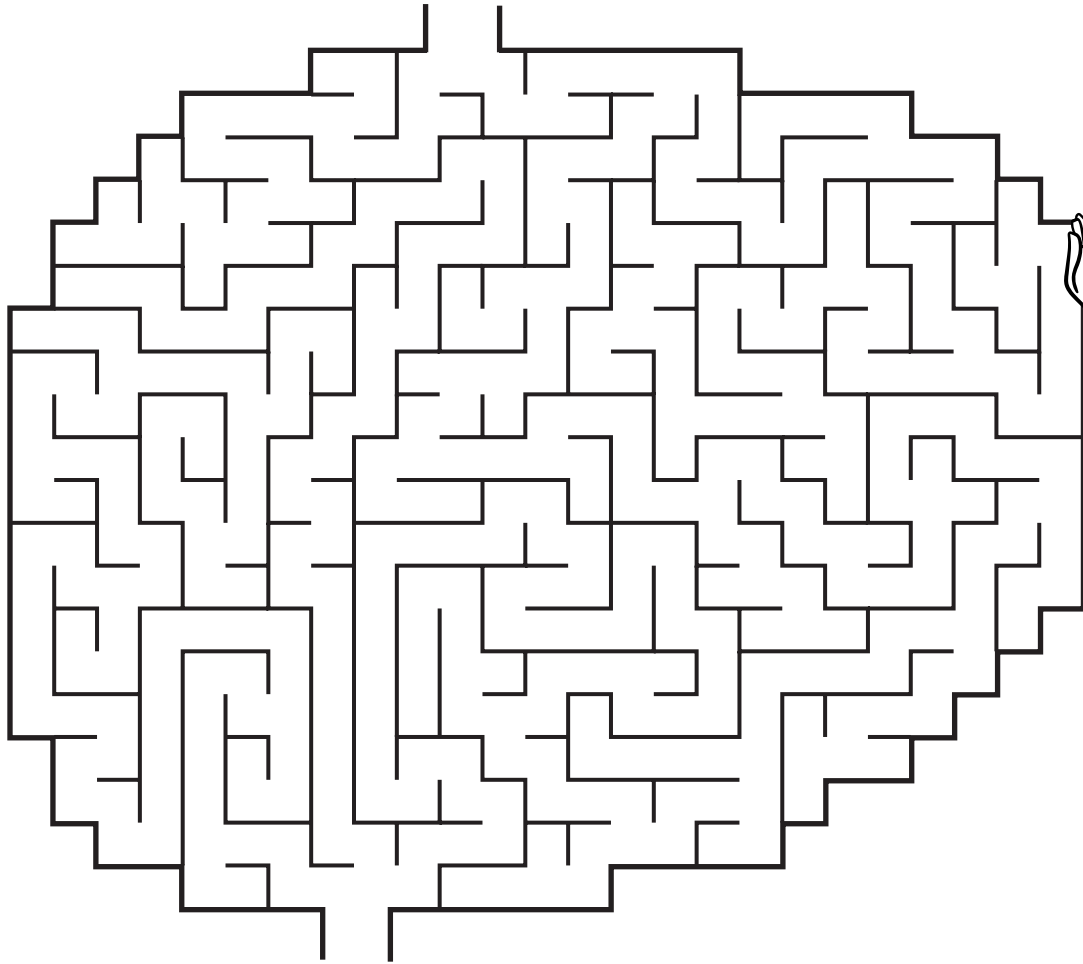
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LYDIA IS BAPTIZED

Lead Paul and Silas to Lydia to baptize her.

END



START

