

Lydia and the Jailer

Lesson Objectives

- The students will hear the story of the conversions of Lydia and the Philippian jailer.
- The students will name one way that Paul and Silas trusted God.
- The students will describe one godly response to their difficult circumstances.

Lesson Text

Acts 16

Scripture Memory Verse

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:14

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Journey Jumble

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Philippian Fruit

Craft: Purple Heart

Scripture Memory: Open Hearts

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Lydia and the Jailer

Journey Jumble

The students will preview this week's lesson as they complete this word scramble.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that in today's lesson they are going to learn about two people who Paul taught about Jesus. They both believed, repented and were baptized. Explain that this activity will introduce them to the names, places, and main ideas of this week's lesson.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and the pencils.
3. Encourage the students to work together and to use their Bibles. Tell them to open their Bibles to Acts 16.
4. Circulate among the students to offer help.

Teachers Tips

- The students who finish early should be encouraged to turn to Acts 16 and select five words to scramble and give to another student to solve.

Journey Jumble
Answer Key

yTmioth (Acts 16:1) Timothy

ahTaytri (Acts 16:14) Thyatira

daiyL (Acts 16:14) Lydia

rspnoi (Acts 16:23) prison

seolhudho (Acts 16:15) household

elajir (Acts 16:23) jailer

laiSs (Acts 16:19) Silas

rtofnue-eltniig (Acts 16:16) fortune-telling

zbdetapi (Acts 16:33) baptized

gdgiote (Acts 16:23) flogged

piilpPhi (Acts 16:12) Philippi

pluep tohcl (Acts 16:14) purple cloth

souwnd (Acts 16:33) wounds

Lydia and the Jailer

Philippian Fruit

The students will participate in the story of Lydia and the Philippian jailer.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Preparation

1. Neatly print on the large writing surface: prayer, prison, Paul and Silas, and baptized.
2. Practice telling this story with emphasis and enthusiasm.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Today's story comes from Acts 16. In today's lesson you will learn about Paul and his second missionary journey. Two disciples named Silas and Timothy accompanied him. Timothy was a young disciple that Paul loved and trained for the ministry. During their journey, they went to a city known as Philippi where they met a woman named Lydia and a jailer who was in charge of a Philippian prison.

Tell the students that they need to listen very carefully during the story for the words that you wrote on the large writing surface: prayer, prison, Paul and Silas, and baptized. Each time they hear one of these words they will do an action and say an expression. When the students hear the word "prayer," they should put their hands together and say "Amen!" When they hear the word "prison," they should lift their hands and say "Rejoice in the Lord always!" When they hear the words "Paul and Silas," they should give a thumbs-up and say, "Way to go, brothers!" Whenever they hear the word "baptized," they should raise their hands in a "V" shape and say, "Victory!"

Practice by saying each of these words to the students in random order and have them respond with the corresponding action and expression. As you read the following Bible Story, the words have been capitalized for easy recognition. Give the students time to respond appropriately to these words.

Presenting the Bible Story

Today's story is about PAUL AND SILAS. They went outside the city gate expecting to find a place of PRAYER. Many women had gathered there. PAUL AND SILAS sat down to speak with the women. One of the women listening was Lydia, a seller of purple cloth in Thyatira. She was a worshiper of God. She listened to PAUL AND SILAS and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the message. She and the members of her household were BAPTIZED.

Another time when they were going to a place of PRAYER, they met a slave girl who had a spirit that could predict the future. She made a great deal of money for her owners by fortune telling. While PAUL AND SILAS were there, she would shout about them being men of God. Paul was so troubled by her that he drove the evil spirit out of the girl. Her owners became angry because they lost the opportunity to make money from her fortune-telling ability. The owners seized PAUL AND SILAS and dragged them before the judge. A crowd joined in the attack against PAUL AND SILAS, so the judges ordered them to be beaten, flogged and then thrown into PRISON. The jailer put PAUL AND SILAS into the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. Let's see what the Bible says happened next in Acts 16:25-26.

About midnight PAUL AND SILAS were PRAYING and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the PRISON were shaken. At once all the PRISON doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

When the jailer woke up and saw the PRISON doors open he took his sword to kill himself. (Explain to the students that the punishment for having prisoners escape was execution. If the jailer did not kill himself, he would be put to death by his superiors.) Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for some lights and fell trembling at the feet of PAUL AND SILAS. He asked them what he must do to be saved. PAUL AND SILAS spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the other people at his house. The jailer washed their wounds and then he and his whole household were



3rd and 4th Grades

Lydia and the Jailer

BAPTIZED. The jailer, who ran the PRISON, was filled with joy because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.

The next morning the judges sent some officers to the PRISON with the orders to release PAUL AND SILAS. The jailer told them that they would be released and that they could go in peace. But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out." (Acts 16:37)

The judges escorted PAUL AND SILAS from the PRISON, requesting them to leave the city. PAUL AND SILAS went to Lydia's home and encouraged the brothers and sisters there.



Sharing with Others

Ask the students to describe Paul and Silas while they were in prison waiting to be killed. (joyful, peaceful, happy, singing) Ask them why they think that these men could be so calm during such a frightening time. (total trust in God) Ask the students to say one way they could show the same kind of trust in God in a difficult situation. Encourage the students to think of someone they know who is going through a difficult time and to share today's story with that person. Close with a prayer for the students to trust God.

Teacher Tips

- Adjust the "actions" to the size of your group and the setting.



C

R

A

F

T

Lydia and the Jailer

Purple Heart

The students will create purple hearts to remind them of Lydia's conversion.

Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- purple felt or cloth, 6" x 7"
- white glue
- magnetic stripping, 1" x 2"

For the teacher:

- scissors
- white glue

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student (on heavy paper)

Preparation

1. Cut the purple cloth into 6" x 7" pieces. Cut one piece for each student.
2. Cut out the heart pattern from Reproducible Page B along the initial cutting line. See Figure A.
NOTE: Save the rest of the page for the students.
3. Glue a heart pattern to each piece of cloth. Trim the pattern edges away, following the final cutting line, making a purple heart. See Figure B.
4. Cut a 1" x 2" piece of magnetic stripping for each student.
5. Make a sample craft.



Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning about Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Lydia was a businesswoman who sold purple cloth. When she heard the good news about Jesus, she obeyed and became a disciple.* Show the students your sample craft. Read the memory verse to them. Explain that the heart has a magnetic strip so they can hang them on their refrigerators at home.
2. Distribute the scissors and the copies of Reproducible Page B with the memory verse hearts on them. Have the students cut out the memory verse hearts.
3. Distribute the glue and purple hearts you prepared. Have the students glue the memory verse hearts to the cloth side of the purple hearts. See Figure C.
4. Distribute the magnetic stripping. Help the students peel off the backing and place the stripping, sticky side down, on the paper side of their purple hearts, as shown in Figure D.
5. Have the students write their names on the paper side of their purple hearts.

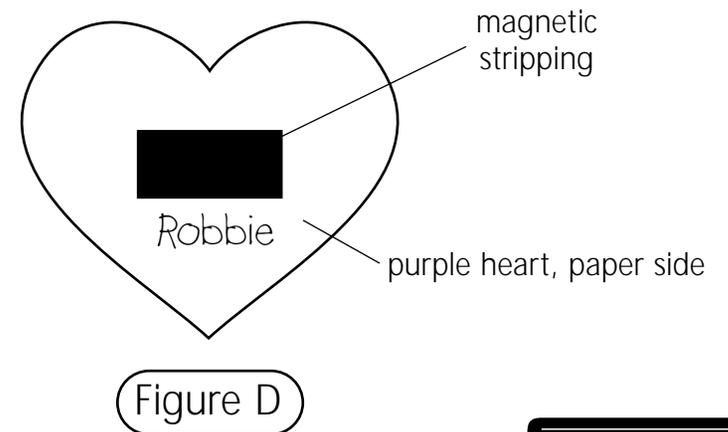
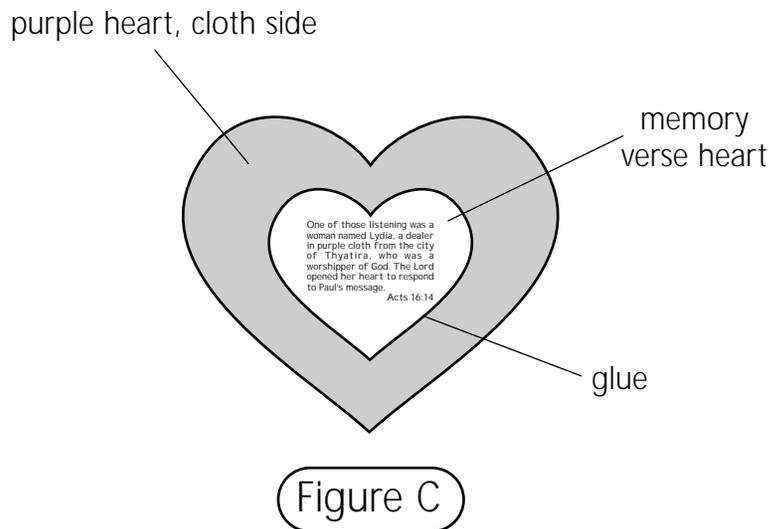
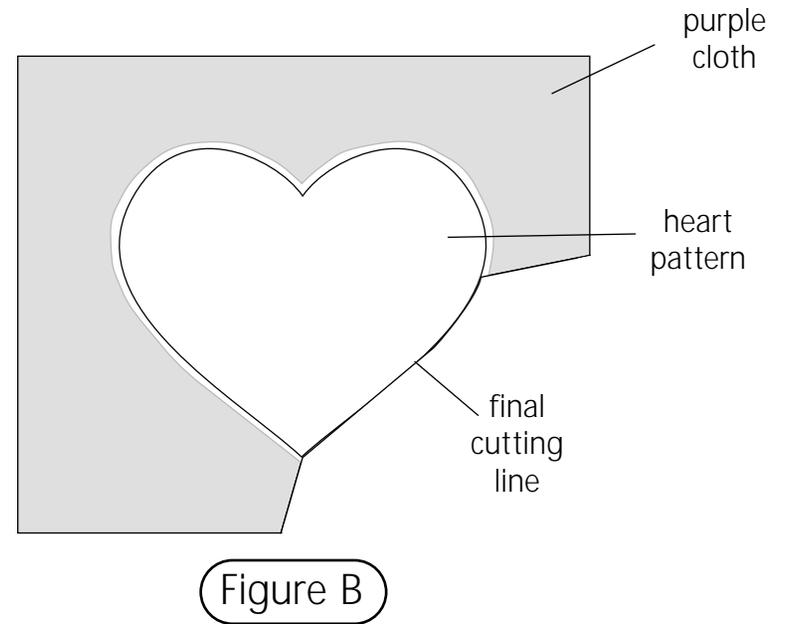
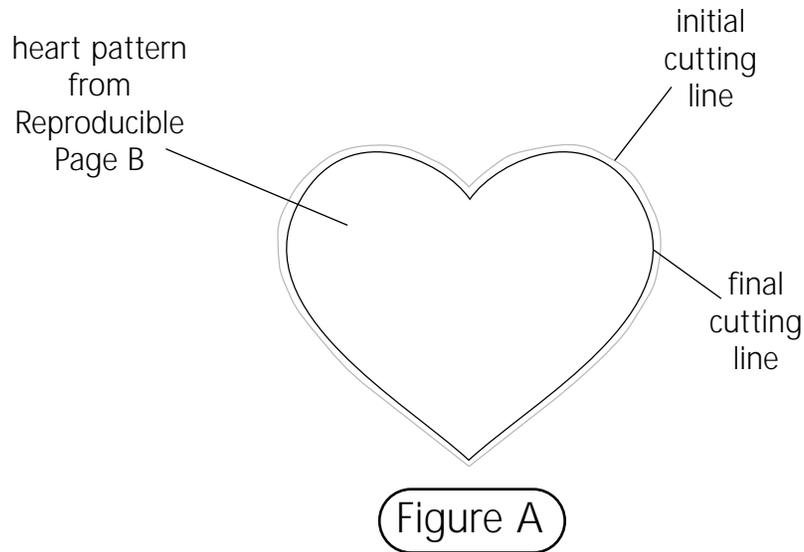
Conclusion

Close with a prayer asking God to help us have open hearts to his word.

Teacher Tips

- If magnetic stripping is not available, bring yarn and a hole punch to create necklaces for the girls and armbands for the boys.

Lydia and the Jailer



Lydia and the Jailer

Open Hearts

The students will learn and memorize this week's memory verse as they order the words of the verse.

Scripture Memory Verse

The Lord opened her heart to respond to God's message.
Acts 16:14

Materials

For the teacher:

- 5 index cards, 5" x 7"
- black marker
- red marker
- medium size gift bag

Preparation

1. On each of the index cards, neatly print with the black marker one of the following phrases, including the correct punctuation:
The Lord
opened her heart
to respond to
God's message.
Acts 16:14
2. Using the red marker, outline the words "opened her heart."
3. Number the backs of the cards in order from one to five.
4. Place the index cards in the gift bag.
5. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning about Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Paul and his companions taught the good news about Jesus to both of these people. Both Lydia and the jailer listened to the word of God, took it into their hearts and obeyed it.*
2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say the verse to the students three times as they listen. Ask the students to say it together with you three more times. Ask each student to say it with you to the group. Ask for volunteers to say it from memory.
3. Show the students the index cards you prepared. Say the verse using the cards and show the phrases on each card. Put the cards in order and tell the students to read the verse, as you hold up each card. Point out that the words "opened her heart" are in red.
4. Shuffle the cards and place them in the gift bag. Pass the bag around and have each student take a card until they are all taken. Tell the students to place the cards down in order, one at a time and have all the students say the verse. Have the student who placed the "opened her heart" card say the verse to the group with his eyes closed.
5. Remove the first card. Shuffle and replace the remaining cards in the bag and repeat Step 4. This time, the students must say the first phrase from memory. Continue for as long as time allows, each time removing the next card.

Conclusion

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that God led Paul and Silas to meet both Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Encourage them that God is still working to lead disciples to meet people with open hearts for God. Tell the students that God wants to use them to find open hearts who want to know him. Close with a prayer for the students to have open, teachable hearts.

Teacher Tips

- Encourage the group to help each other.



3rd and 4th Grades

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The Lord opened her heart to
respond to God's message.

Acts 16:14

Lesson Objectives

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- The students will name one way that Paul and Silas trusted God.
- The students will describe one godly response to their difficult circumstances.

Lesson Text

Acts 16

Scripture Memory Verse

The Lord opened her heart to respond to God's message.

*Acts 16:14***Lesson Plan**

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Before and After

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Wanted! For Trusting God

Game: Jailhouse Rock

Bible Skills: Places in Time (Part 3)

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Before and After

The students will review this week's lesson as they fill in missing words from the Bible Story.

Materials*For each student:*

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student (optional)

Preparation

Complete your copies of Reproducible Pages C and D to use as Answer Keys for the students.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind the students that they are learning about Paul's second missionary journey. He went to Philippi and preached the good news about Jesus. Explain that

they will review this week's Bible Story by looking at scriptures from the story of the Philippian jailer.

2. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page C and pencils. Tell the students to work with partners to complete this activity. Pair students who have heard the story with those who have not.
3. Tell the students to use their Bibles to look up and read the scriptures to fill in the missing words.
4. Circulate among the students to offer assistance and answer questions. Use this time to review the Bible Story with new or visiting students.
5. When they are finished, suggest they complete the challenge activity.

Special Sharpshooter Review

For the students who want some additional review, distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D. Tell them that these questions will be used later in the Game Center.

Teacher Tips

- For students who did not hear this week's Bible Story, give them a copy of Reproducible Page D to do first.
- Play contemporary Christian music during this activity.

Wanted! For Trusting God

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they consider ways to trust God during difficult circumstances.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil, pen or crayons

For the teacher:

- newspaper or news magazines
- Polaroid instant camera (optional)
- glue stick (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Prepare articles with pictures about natural disasters (e.g., war, earthquake, forest fire, etc.) Be familiar with the stories.
2. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible E.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Remind the students that this week's Bible Story comes from Acts 16. *This week we learned about Paul's second missionary trip. He went to Philippi where he helped convert Lydia and her family and a jailer and his family.*

Sometime after Lydia had been baptized, Paul and Silas began to be followed by a slave girl who shouted, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." However, this did not help Paul and it troubled Paul greatly. Paul turned around and cast out the evil spirit from her. Her owners got angry and brought Paul and Silas before the city officials, called magistrates. As a result, Paul and Silas were severely flogged—or whipped with jagged leather strips—and thrown into prison.

While they were in prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang songs to God. But then there was a violent earthquake and all the prison cell doors flew open. The jailer thought the prisoners had escaped and was about to kill himself. But Paul stopped him just in time.

The jailer was so impressed with Paul and Silas, he took them home, cleaned them up, listened to their message, and he and his whole family were baptized. The next day the magistrates set Paul and Silas free.

- *How would you have felt if you were beaten and thrown into prison for trying to help people learn about Jesus?*
- *How did Paul and Silas respond? (They prayed and sang songs.)*
- *Did Paul and Silas trust God? How can you tell? (Take responses.)*

Life Application

Show the students the articles you prepared. Ask them how they would feel and what they would do. For example: if the article is about a tornado in Oklahoma: *You are watching TV. Suddenly, a special report comes on announcing a huge tornado coming towards your town. How are you feeling and what would you do?* (Responses should include: pray, seek safety, help others be safe, obey directions, trust that God will protect me, etc.)

Present another scenario: *Recently, on your way to school, a boy who is older and bigger has been bothering you. He teases you and threatens to hurt you. You are afraid to walk to school. What would you do?* (Responses should include: Pray, seek help and advice from my parents or teachers and trust God that he will help me.)

God wants us to trust him at all times. He is always there to help us. He wants us to trust him with difficulties in our everyday life. Paul and Silas trusted God when they were beaten and in prison. They prayed and then sang songs of praise to God. They did not complain, worry or become fearful. They prayed and trusted God to help them—so they could sing in prison!

Ask the students to think of a difficult situation in which they need to trust God. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E and pencils. Have the students draw a picture of their faces in the space provided at the top of the poster. Then have them fill out the space provided at the bottom.

Conclusion

Have the students show their wanted posters to the class. Close with a prayer for the students to trust God this week.

Teacher Tips

- Instead of the students drawing pictures, use a Polaroid instant camera to take their pictures and glue them on the sheet.



3rd and 4th Grades



Jailhouse Rock

The students will play tic-tac-toe to review and reinforce the story of Paul and Silas in prison.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 28"
- 5 dimes
- 5 pennies
- black marker

Preparation

Draw a tic-tac-toe board to fill the poster board.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your lesson this week, you are learning about Paul's second missionary trip. On this journey, he met and taught Lydia and the Philippian jailer. In this activity you will play tic-tac-toe and review the events of these stories.*
2. Show the students the tic-tac-toe board you prepared. Divide the students into two teams. Be careful to mix the students who heard this week's Bible Story with those who did not. Give each team one set of game pieces. Tell them that in this game they must answer a question correctly in order to place a game piece on the board.
3. Choose a team to go first. Ask them a question from the list on the back of the Lesson Card. If the team gives the correct answer, they may place their game piece on the board. The students should discuss their answer as a team before giving it. If they answer incorrectly they do not place a game piece on the board. The next team takes its turn.
4. Continue game play until a team has three in a row or until the game is over. Play as many rounds as time permits. If necessary, use the questions again or make up additional ones.

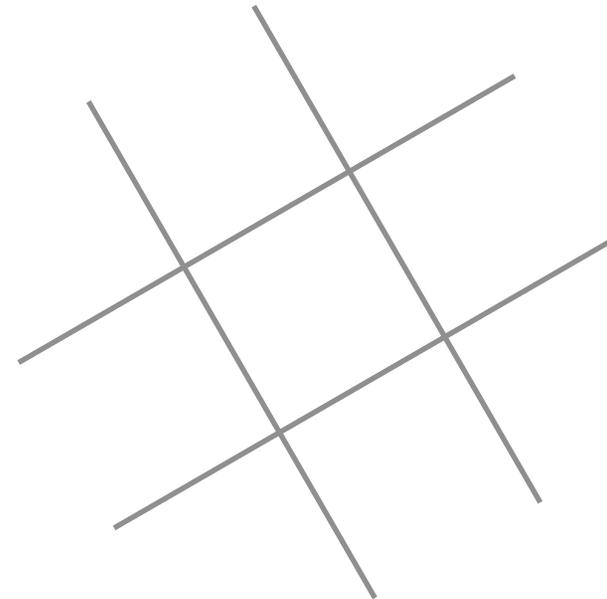


Conclusion

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that Paul kept on preaching even when he was beaten and thrown into prison. Help them to see that it was because he loved God so much that nothing could stop him. Tell the students that God wants them to grow to love him that way, too. Close with a prayer thanking God for Paul's example of unconditional love for Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- Bottle tops, pogs or other small flat objects also make suitable game pieces.





Jailhouse Rock

True or False
Questions and Answers

1. Timothy was a young disciple who also came on this missionary trip with Paul. (True)
2. Paul went to a place of prayer to teach people about Jesus. (True)
3. Lydia was a dealer of purple cloth. (True)
4. Lydia was one of the women who was praying at the river. (True)
5. Lydia told Paul that she was not interested in learning about Jesus. (False)
6. Lydia and the members of her household were baptized. (True)
7. Paul cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. (True)
8. The owners of the slave girl thanked Paul and Silas for casting out the evil spirit. (False)
9. Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison. (True)
10. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. (True)
11. A volcano erupted and shook the prison doors open. (False)
12. When the jailer saw the doors open he was going to kill himself. (True)
13. Paul told the jailer not to harm himself because they were all there. (True)
14. The jailer asked Paul, "How did that happen?" (False)
15. The jailer washed Paul and Silas' wounds. (True)
16. The Philippian jailer put socks on Paul and Silas' feet. (False)
17. The jailer and his family were baptized. (True)



3rd and 4th Grades

Places in Time (Part 3)

The students will continue to work on a timeline of Paul's missionary journeys.

Materials

For each student:

- colored pens or pencils

For the teacher:

- tape
- timelines from Unit 18 Lessons 1-2

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete your copy of Reproducible F and tape it to your timelines from Unit 18 Lessons 1 and 2.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In this week's lesson you learned about Paul's second missionary journey and his work in Philippi. Throughout this unit, we will see the great things God did through Paul. God worked through Paul to build up the kingdom. In this week's lesson, we see Paul teaching Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison, but they trusted God. They even prayed and sang praises to God in prison! God caused an earthquake to shake the prison and open the doors. The jailer was frightened and amazed. He asked Paul and Silas what he should do to be saved. They taught him and baptized him that night. Today we are going to put these events on our timeline and review all the events of Paul's missionary journeys so far.*
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible F and pencils to the students. Tell the students to open their Bible to Acts 16.
3. Ask the students to work in pairs to look up the first scripture reference on their timelines and to raise their hands when they have found it.
4. Tell the students to find the phrase in the box at the bottom that best fits the scripture reference and write it in the blank provided. Remind them to circle the phrase that does not belong.

5. Continue until all the blanks are filled in. Use the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card to check the students' work. When the students have filled in all the blanks on their pages, have them color the pictures.
6. Distribute the manila folders to the students. Help the students to tape their timelines together, side by side. After they have done this, show them how to neatly fold it and place it in their folders. Collect the folders and bring them back for the next class.
7. Keep the students' work so that you will have it for the next week to keep building the timeline.

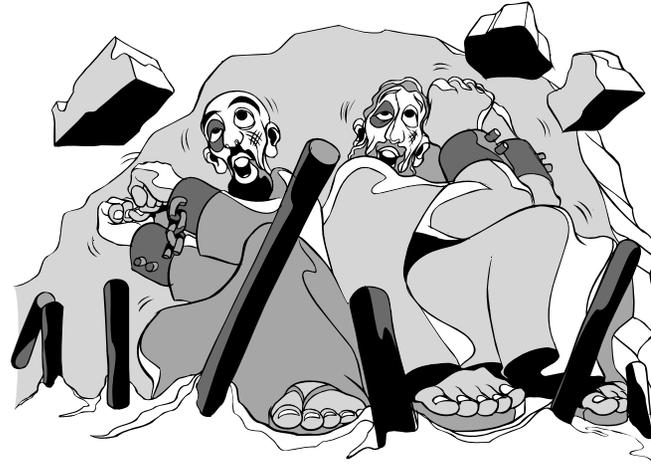
Conclusion

Ask the students which of Paul's travels they are most interested in and why. Point out that not only did Paul encounter some opposition and persecution, but he also made some great friends on his journeys. Close with a prayer for the students to have a vision for how they can be like Paul and tell people about God.

Teacher Tips

- For some it will be harder to look up scriptures than others. Provide help and encouragement so that everyone can feel successful.
- Encourage all the students to participate in finding the answers.

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Paul and Silas are put in prison.

Acts 16:22-24

An earthquake in prison!

Acts 16:26

The jailer is baptized.

Acts 16:31-34

Paul and Silas are put in prison.
An earthquake in prison!

The jailer is baptized.
Paul is thrown into the lions' den.

Journey Jumble

Name _____

The following words are very important in today's lesson. If you need help, look up the verse in Acts 16 that contains the jumbled word.

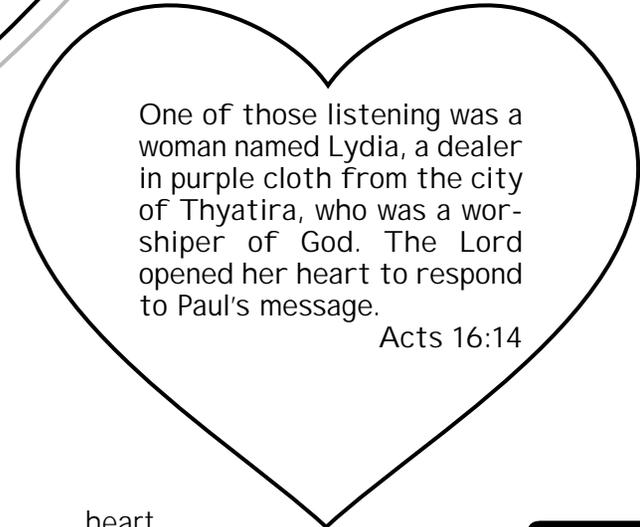
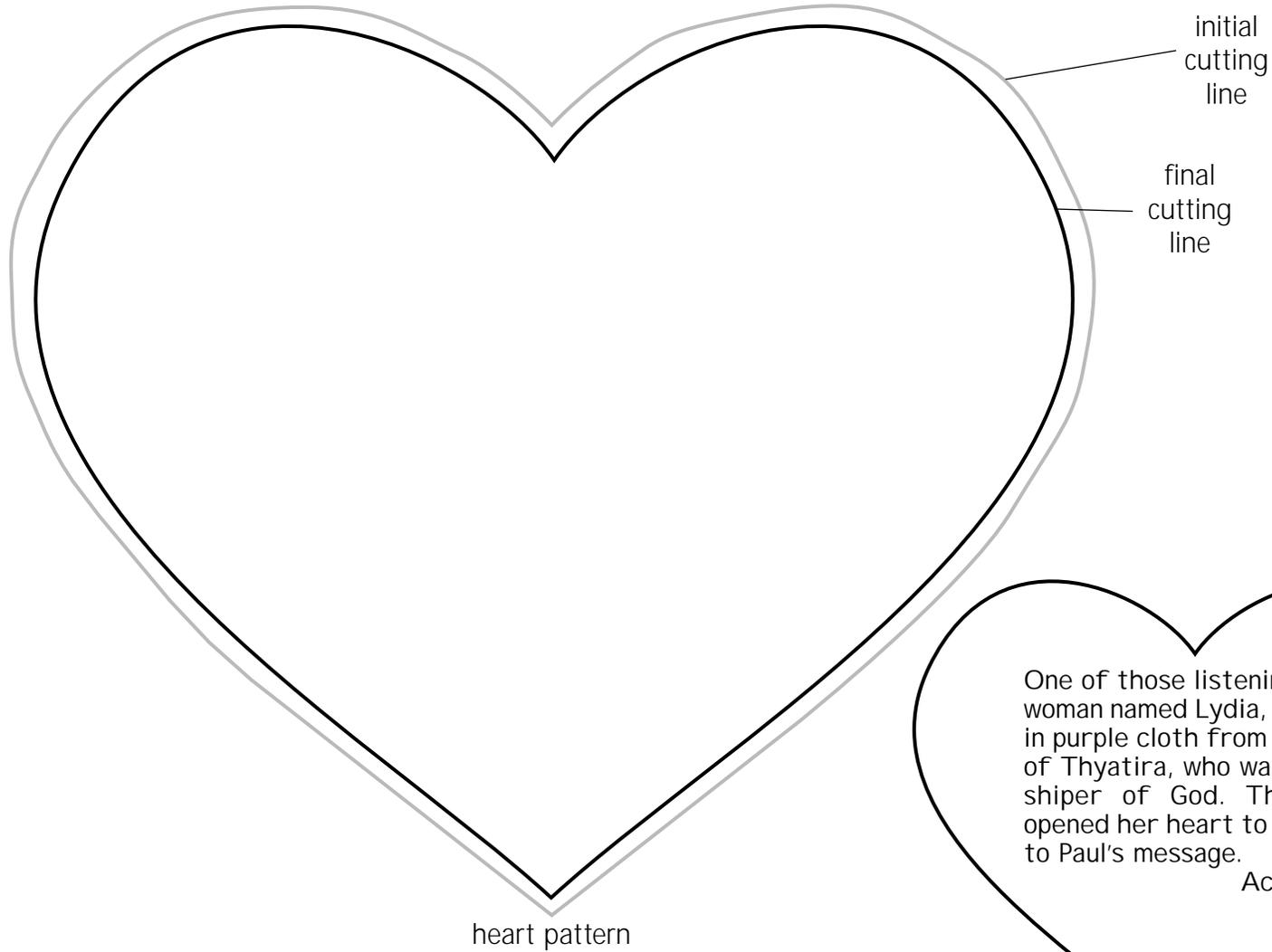
- yTmioth (Acts 16:1) _____
- daiyL (Acts 16:14) _____
- ahTaytri (Acts 16:14) _____
- rspnoi (Acts 16:23) _____
- elajir (Acts 16:23) _____
- seolhudho (Acts 16:15) _____
- rtofne-eltnilg (Acts 16:16) _____
- laiSs (Acts 16:19) _____
- gdglofe (Acts 16:23) _____
- piilpPhi (Acts 16:12) _____
- zbdetapi (Acts 16:33) _____
- souwnd (Acts 16:33) _____
- rpluep tohcl (Acts 16:14) _____



3rd and 4th Grades

Core/Craft

1 copy for each student (on heavy paper)



heart
memory
verse



3rd and 4th Grades

Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each student (optional)

Sharpshooter Quiz S

Sharpshooter Quiz

Name _____

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Open your Bible to Acts 16 and answer the questions below. Write True or False in the spaces provided.

1. Timothy was a young disciple who also came on this missionary trip with Paul. _____
(Hint: Acts 16:1-3)
2. Paul went to a place of prayer to teach people about Jesus. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:13)
3. Lydia was a dealer of purple cloth. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:14)
4. Lydia was one of the women who was praying at the river. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:13-14)
5. Lydia told Paul that she was not interested in learning about Jesus. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:13-15)
6. Lydia and the members of her household were baptized. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:14-15)
7. Paul cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:18)
8. The owners of the slave girl thanked Paul and Silas for casting out the evil spirit. _____
(Hint: Acts 16:19-21)
9. Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison. _____ (Hint: Acts 16: 22-24)
10. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. _____
(Hint: Acts 16:25)
11. A volcano erupted and shook the prison doors open. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:26)
12. When the jailer saw the doors open he was going to kill himself. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:27)
13. Paul told the jailer not to harm himself because they were all there. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:28)
14. The jailer asked Paul, "How did that happen?" _____ (Hint: Acts 16:30-33)
15. The jailer washed Paul and Silas' wounds. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:33)
16. The Philippian jailer put socks on Paul and Silas' feet. _____
(Hint: Acts 16:31-34)
17. The jailer and his family were baptized. _____ (Hint: Acts 16:33)



3rd and 4th Grades

W A N T E D !

F o r T r u s t i n g G o d

N a m e :

D i f f i c u l t c i r c u m s t a n c e i n y o u r l i f e :



3rd and 4th Grades

Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each student

Places in Time (Part 3)

Directions: Look up the verse references below and select the phrases from the box that best describe the verses. Write them on the appropriate blanks on the timeline. Circle the phrase that does not belong.

Name _____



P

Acts 16:22-24

A

Acts 16:26

T

Acts 16:31-34

Paul and Silas are put in prison.
Paul is thrown into the lions' den.

The jailer is baptized.
An earthquake in prison!