

Lesson 2: Finding Jesus at the River

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn about the story of Lydia Acts 16:12-15
- 2) Find Jesus by hearing and believing like Lydia did
- 3) Play Clam Match Game to remember story

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Pencil Crayons or Crayons
- Pens/Pencils with Erasers
- Attendance Sheet Set – one per class
- Stickers for each student to place on Attendance Sheet
- Lydia Song Sheet – enough to share so kids see words to song
- Lydia Activity booklet – one per student
- Clam Match Game (there are three sets on template – cut out how many sets you need and print on Cardstock paper before class (Laminate if desired)

Optional:

- Snack – Gold Fish Crackers
- Cups with Water
- Napkins

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson: Story of Lydia and Questions 10 minutes

As students enter welcome them back and help them find a chair to sit at. Take attendance.

Say, “**Remember earlier we learned that to find Jesus we need to look in the Bible? We also learned that Jesus is the Son of God and He loved us so much He came to earth to be an example to teach us how to follow Him from John 3:16. Now we are going to learn how to find Jesus at the river. You will receive an activity booklet for this class. Please write your name on the front page at the top. Hand out activity booklets along with pencil crayons. Lydia found Jesus by meeting at the river to pray and there she also heard about Jesus because Paul an apostle and follower of Jesus went there to preach. And, by believing what she heard she became of follower of Jesus too. That makes Jesus very happy. Lydia found Jesus at the river – let’s see how.**

On the first page of your booklet is a bunch of words with pictures. Follow along as I read the story of Lydia – as I read you will see pictures that match the words I am saying. See if you can follow along through the whole story. Remember to listen carefully so we can talk about what we read when I am done. Everyone ready?”

Read Acts 16:9-15. Tell the students that it was a man named Paul and his helper Timothy who went to the river to talk about Jesus.

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. ¹²From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³On 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. ¹⁴One 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. ¹⁵When 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.

Lydia heard about Jesus and she believed in Jesus – Lydia found Jesus!

How can we find Jesus? Just like Lydia we need to come to places where people speak and teach about Jesus – with the church; we need to hear about Him; and finally we need to believe and obey in Jesus!

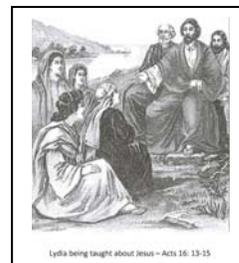
I'm going to ask you some questions now, raise your hand if you can find or know the answer.

- 1) **Who had a vision?** Paul
- 2) **What body of water did Paul and his friends go to?** River
- 3) **Who was at the river listening?** Lydia
- 4) **What did she do for a living?** Sell purple cloth
- 5) **When she heard Paul speak what did she do?** Listened, believed, and obeyed by being baptized
- 6) **After her family believed and were baptized what did she ask Paul and his friends to do?** Stay at her home

2) Activities about Lydia

10-15 minutes

"Lydia is a great woman of the Bible because she was willing to listen to Paul's words and believe in Jesus. She found Jesus at the river when she heard and believed the Words of the Bible that Paul was teaching about. We need to find Jesus also by reading the Bible and believing the Words that Jesus through the Bible says.



Lydia being taught about Jesus – Acts 16: 13-15

I want you now to turn in your pages to the coloring page of Lydia. With your pencil crayons, color the picture and while you are coloring think about how you too can hear and believe like Lydia. When you are done coloring, turn the page and write or draw a picture of three things you believe about Jesus and the Bible and write or draw something you are going to do this week to help you hear and believe more about the Bible - maybe you can read it with your family or on your own. Maybe you can read it with a friend. Everyone know what to do? **Ok, let's get started.** (Walk around room helping kids color and come up with ideas on things they believe about Jesus, the Bible, and what they are going to do this week to help hear more about Jesus. Make sure what they say they believe is actually factual and if not, ask them to look with you in the Bible to see whether it is factual or not). When done help children clean up pencil crayons and put away booklets in their folders.

3) How do I know what to believe?

5-10 minutes

Have you ever heard a story from someone that was hard to believe? You thought maybe they weren't telling the truth? (Let children respond) Maybe they had lied to you before so you wondered if what they were saying was true. Maybe you heard something on T.V. and wondered if what they were showing was true or not. In our life, we have to be careful to check what people say in order to make sure that it is truth.

Who brought their Bibles? (Child raise hands or show Bibles) **Good! Turn with me to Acts 17:11; I'll read it while you follow along.** (Help students find verse and hand out more Bibles to those who do not have any.)

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Paul, the same man who talked to Lydia about Jesus, also went and taught the Bereans. In the Bible, the Bereans were called noble why? Not only did they hear the message Paul taught but they examined the Scriptures/Words of the Bible everyday to see if what he said was true.

So, how do we know what to believe? We need to check the Bible for ourselves, when someone, even a minister at our church talks about God's Word we need to follow along in the Bible to make sure that what he is saying is what the Bible says and that he is not making a mistake or saying something wrong. Then we can be noble too, like the Bereans, and then we too can know if what we heard is something we can believe!

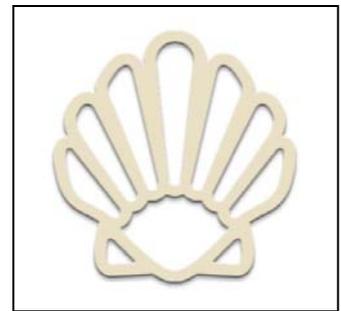
Does anyone have any questions? (Answer questions that are on track and appropriate.)

4) Clam Match Game

10 minutes

Organize children so that they are in pairs – Hand out one set of clam cards to each pair of students (2 of each different clam). (Ask assistant to help a group if available or put older students with younger students). Tell students:

To help us remember that like Lydia we need to hear and believe in Jesus we are going to play a matching game. Do you see these cards - these are clams. (Show students one of the clams) Clams can live in water like rivers, and by the river is where Lydia heard the story of Jesus and believed. We are going to place the clams face down on the table – each group gets a set of clams. Make sure you do not look under the clam until it is your turn. Mix up the clams but keep them face down.



Now to play the game, you each take a turn picking up two clams – look under the two you picked and see if they match – if they have the same word you get to keep the clams, if they don't have the same word you have to put the clams back down the way you found them. Make sure you only pick up two and once you pick one up you can't put it down and choose another ok? Also, read each clam aloud so you all get to see and hear what the clam word is. Ask for help if you can't read the word.

Once all the clams are matched the game is over.

Help children play game and take turns. You will have to remind them to only pick two clams and help them check if they match or not. If the game is over and there is time you can mix up the clams in the set and play again. Once finished, put clams away back in packages.

5) Optional: Snack – Gold Fish Crackers

5 minutes

Gold Fish Crackers

handful for each child

Juice/Water

one glass per child

Cup and Napkin

one per child

Reread account in Bible of Lydia while students snack, then discuss questions related to her hearing, believing and following Jesus.

6) Close in prayer

2-5 minutes

Thank God that He sent his Son Jesus and that we can learn about God and Jesus in the Bible. Thank God also for the story of Lydia and pray that all in the room will also hear and believe in Jesus like Lydia did. Pray that we will remember to read our Bibles as we grow and to not only read, but obey what God and Jesus say in the Bible. Pray for those who are in need.

7) Sing Songs:

5 minutes

If time ask the students what songs they would like to sing, have assistants help you sing. Examples could be:

***Jesus loves me**

***BIBLE**

***Song of Lydia** – sung to “Mary had a Little Lamb”

(printed version available so kids can sing along and read the words.

Lydia was there that day, there that day, there that day.

Lydia was there that day at the place of prayer.

As she listened to Paul's words, to Paul's words, to Paul's words,
As she listened to Paul's words the Lord opened up her heart.

She began to trust in Him, trust in Him, trust in Him.
She began to trust in Him and obey the words he spoke.

Be like Lydia and seek the Lord, seek the Lord, seek the Lord.
Be like Lydia and seek the Lord. Keep your heart open to His word."

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!