

**Why Lydia?** Lydia responded to the teachings of Jesus' disciples to become a Christian. She had a business of dyeing purple cloth, but she also prayed and took charge of her family. She showed special hospitality to Paul and Silas



**Lydia**

To the leader: This is a suggested plan of study, based on a 1 ½ hour meeting. Do as many activities as time permits. All meetings can be changed or supplemented by service activities, crafts and games as planned by the leader.

**First meeting** (see pg 5 for details)

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Read or tell the story of Lydia and answer questions
- Play the “busy game”
- Dye cloth purple and allow it to hang to dry for use at the third meeting
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

**Second Meeting** (see pg 6)

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Review the story of Lydia and draw a picture of her praying by the river
- Do weaving, finger-knitting or finger-crocheting
- Teach girls to be hospitable and have them play tea party
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

**Third Meeting** (see pg 7)

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Make Lydia dolls and/or do weaving project
- Talk about Lydia's faith and plant seeds
- Plan for girls to be greeters at a church service or serve food at coffee hour
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

**Fourth Meeting** (see pg 8)

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Focus on the meaning of hospitality
- Tell the Bible story and discuss questions
- Bake some food with the girls to take home or make a placemat
- Do some of the “Just for Fun” activities
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

## Lydia

After Jesus died and rose to heaven, there were still some people who did not know about His love. One of these people was a woman named Lydia.



Lydia made and sold purple cloth. She got the purple color from a sea snail. Her purple cloth was very beautiful. People wanted to buy Lydia's cloth because the color did not fade away. Lydia worked carefully to make sure the cloth was woven and dyed properly.





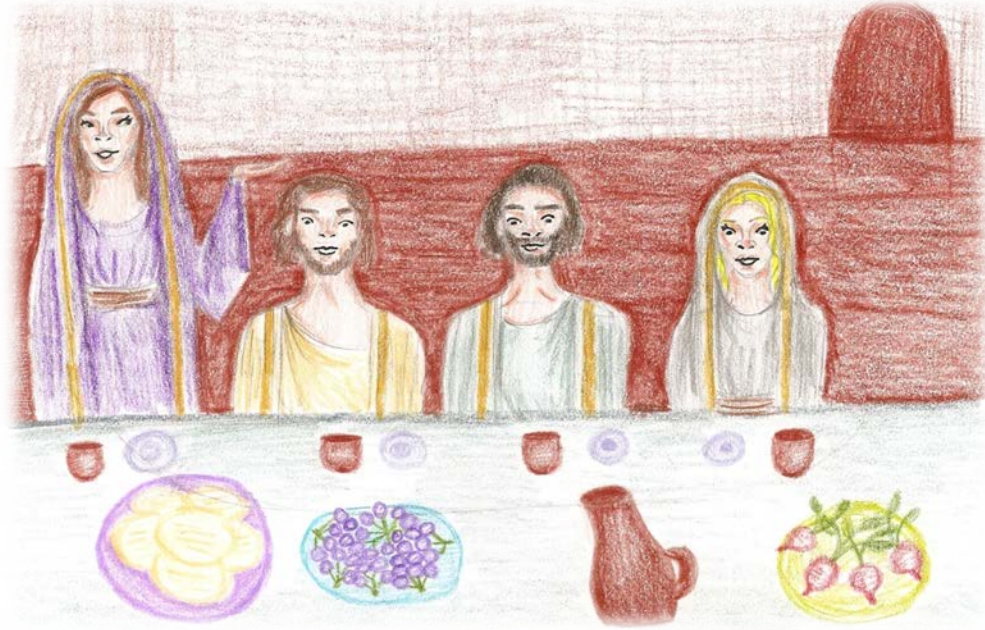


Lydia was a hard worker, but she remembered to rest every Sabbath. One Sabbath, when she met with some other women to pray by the river, two of Jesus' disciples came to talk to them. Their names were Paul and Silas.



Paul told Lydia about Jesus' life and what it meant to be a believer. Lydia loved hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. She accepted what she heard from Paul and was baptized. All of her household was baptized, too.

Then Lydia said to Paul, “If you find me faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay with me.” She took them to her house and made a tasty meal for them. Then Paul and Silas rested at Lydia’s house.



Later, Paul and Silas were put into jail for teaching about Jesus. When they were let go, they went to Lydia’s house. Lydia was glad to see them. She welcomed them and let them rest at her house.





# First meeting

## Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with time for snack, prayer and fellowship. An active game outside helps the girls unwind.

## Talk about it!

Provide each girl with a copy of the Lydia story to keep in her notebook. Read the story, showing the illustrations.

- What color was the cloth that Lydia made?
- Where did Lydia go to pray with her friends?
- Who else did she meet by the river?
- Where did Lydia take Paul and Silas after she was baptized?
- How can you be like Lydia?

## Play the “busy” game:

Write a few activities, such as sweeping, reading, playing outside, etc on slips of paper. Have a girl draw a slip of paper and pantomime the activity. She should look very busy. Have the other girls come up and ask her if she wants to come to the park with them to play. What will she choose to do?



## Let's be like Lydia-dye fabric!

You will need:

- Fabric cut into 6 inch squares (100% cotton, rayon, nylon or acetate)
  - RIT liquid dye – purple
  - 2 buckets or large stainless steel pans
  - Clothes line and clothes pins
  - Wooden dowel
  - Paint shirts or aprons
- BE CAREFUL! The dye will stain clothing! Put on a paint shirt or apron!
  - Fill a bucket with hot water. Add ½ bottle of RIT liquid dye (purple is best!) to every 3 gallons of water. Stir to mix.
  - Fill another bucket with hot water. Dip 6 inch square pieces of pre-washed cloth in water. Then add to dye mixture.
  - Use dowel to move fabric around in water for up to 10 minutes.
  - Rinse dyed fabric in plain water and hang up to dry on clothes line using clothes pins.
  - Clean out bucket and scrub with cleanser if necessary.
  - Save some squares of fabric to make a Lydia doll at Meeting 3.

## Sing Friendship Circle Song

## Second meeting

### Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with time for snack, prayer and fellowship. An active game outside helps the girls unwind.

### Talk about it!

Re-read the story of Lydia. Ask the girls to draw a picture of Lydia praying by the river.

### Let's be like Lydia! Weaving

(The teacher should do the first 3 steps in advance.)

You will need:

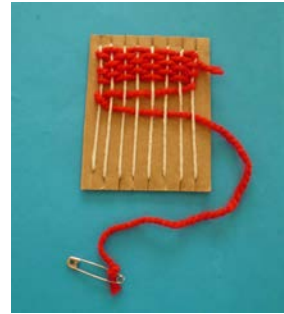
- Cardboard
  - String
  - Yarn
  - Scissors
- b. Cut a piece of cardboard 3 inches wide and 4 inches long
- c. Cut a series of slit along both of the shorter sides of the cardboard, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart



- d. Wrap string back and forth across the cardboard, using the slits to hold the string in place. Secure the ends by tying them to the adjacent row in the back.



- a. Give each girl a length of yarn with a safety pin through one end of the yarn.  
Show the girls that they can thread the yarn in and out of the string, back and forth across the cardboard.



If they completely fill in with yarn, this simple rug can be slipped off the cardboard. If the girls do not finish the project, they can save it on the cardboard to finish at another time.

### Look it up!

Finger crochet and finger knitting are great for girls' small motor skills. Go to [www.wikihow.com/Finger-knit](http://www.wikihow.com/Finger-knit) or [www.wikihow.com/Crochet-a-Bracelet-With-Your-Fingers](http://www.wikihow.com/Crochet-a-Bracelet-With-Your-Fingers) to learn an easy way for the girls to do this.

### What would Lydia do?

You will need:

- A child's tea set

Lydia invited Paul and Silas into her home. Being kind to visitors and making them feel comfortable is one way of sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Show the girls how to welcome a guest. ("Come on in and sit down! I'm so glad you're here!") Have them ask how their visitor is and be a good listener. Show them how to offer their guest food and drink. Have them play act these manners with each other.

### Sing Friendship Circle Song

## Third meeting

### Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with time for snack, prayer and fellowship. An active game outside helps the girls unwind.

### Make a Lydia doll



You will need:

- Wooden clothes pins
  - Chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
  - The fabric squares that were dyed or some other 6 inch squares of fabric
  - Yarn for hair
  - Tacky fabric glue
- a. Wrap a piece of chenille around the clothespin to form the arms of the doll.



- b. Wrap and glue a piece of cloth around the clothespin to look like a robe.



- c. Attach some yarn to the top of the clothespin to look like hair.  
d. Draw a face on the clothespin.  
e. Add another piece of smaller fabric to be a head covering for your Lydia doll!

### Plant seeds of Faith!

Lydia had great faith. Jesus said in Matthew 17:20 that we should have faith like a mustard seed. The seed of the mustard plant is very tiny, but it can become a big plant, big enough for birds to rest in.

You will need:

- Radish seeds
  - Potting soil
  - Large plastic cups
- a. Show the girls the radish seeds and have them notice how small the seeds are. The seeds also look dry and dead. Do they believe that these seeds can become plants? Have them plant the seeds in large cup and take home to water.
- b. They must keep the seeds evenly moist at all times. Use a sprayer if convenient.
- c. At the next meeting, discuss the progress of the seed's growth.



### Bring Lydia's spirit to your Parish

Arrange for the girls to practice hospitality at church by serving as greeters at church or serving the cookies after the service one Sunday.

### Sing Friendship Circle Song

# Fourth meeting

## Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with time for snack, prayer and fellowship. An active game outside helps the girls unwind.

## The Bible Tells Me So

Genesis 18 and 21

## God's promise to Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and his wife Sarah lived a long time ago in a tent in the desert. They had been married many years, but they did not have any children. They had become too old to have babies.

One day, Abraham was sitting outside his tent. He noticed three men standing nearby. He was happy to see some visitors. He ran over to them and asked them to stay for dinner. He told his wife Sarah to make some extra food for the visitors.

While Sarah made the food, she could hear the men talking to her husband in the tent. The men told Abraham that Sarah would have a baby! Sarah laughed quietly to herself. She did not believe that she could have a baby when she was so old.

Then God said, "Why does Sarah laugh? Nothing is too hard for the Lord."

God kept his promise. Even though Sarah and Abraham were old, God gave them a baby boy and they named him Isaac.

## Talk about it!

1. Where did Abraham live?
2. Why didn't Sarah think she could have a baby?
3. What did Sarah and Abraham name their baby?
4. Is anything too hard for God to do?

## Enter the story!

Little things can make a meal special, such as serving a homemade dessert or making the table pretty. The girls will be excited to contribute to their dinner at home.

1. Make a simple dessert such as a brownie mix or decorate cookies. Send these home to make tonight's dinnertime special.
2. Make a place mats.  
*You will need*
  - o Construction paper or a large supply of used greeting cards
  - o Contact paper
  - o Crayons
  - o Scissors

Here are two options:

- a. Draw a picture on a large piece of construction paper and laminate with contact paper to use as a place mat.
- b. Cut 3 inch diameter circles from greeting cards. Assemble on a sheet of contact paper in an overlapping pattern. Cover with another sheet of contact paper. Trim edges.



## Just for Fun!

- ♥ Let the girls help plan a party for their mothers or special someone at the end of a meeting. Guide the girls in making most of the decisions and show them how to greet their mothers when they arrive.
- ♥ Teach the girls a simple Bible song that they can sing to share their faith.

## Sing Friendship Circle Song