



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

August 29, 2021 – Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Courage

Lydia was a merchant of purple cloth. Purple dye was made from a special kind of seashell. Each seashell only make a small amount of pigment that could be used for the dye. The purple cloth was usually reserved for the wealthy in Roman society, so Lydia was probably well-to-do. She owned her own business and her own home.

Lydia believed in God, but she was Greek, not Jewish. She was Gentile, the people God wanted Paul to preach to. Lydia would often meet other women by the riverbank and pray to God. Paul found Lydia and the women at the riverbank when he went to pray.

Paul told the women about Jesus, and Lydia became a follower of Jesus. She was baptized along with her entire household. Lydia helped Paul to share Jesus with others.

We know that Lydia was a disciplined person because she met regularly with the women to pray. It took courage for her to share Jesus with others for several reasons. She was a woman, and women were not considered of much worth in the Roman culture. The interaction of a Jewish man, Paul, and a Gentile woman, Lydia would have been against the rules of both cultures. Lydia showed courage by listening to Paul, being baptized, and inviting him to her home.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Lydia, from Acts 16:11-15 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

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

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ 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.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/sTp8T7Po9gE>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Courage – means choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

WONDER Together:

1. Do you think Lydia was afraid to tell others about Jesus?
2. Where (or from whom) did you hear about Jesus?
3. How can you tell others about Jesus?
4. Who helps you have courage to share with others what you know about Jesus?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 28 & 29). On page 29 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Lydia and her friends went to the riverbank to pray. Is there a special place you like to pray?

Set up a special prayer place in your home. Place a purple cloth on the table to help you remember how Lydia and her friends prayed.

As a family, pray for the courage of Lydia to be able to share the wonderful stories of Jesus with others.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **"May God bless you with courage and strength."**

Prayer: **Dear God, help me to share my love for Jesus without being afraid. Help me to take courage and be strong in the Lord. Amen.**

Additional Activity for each age group

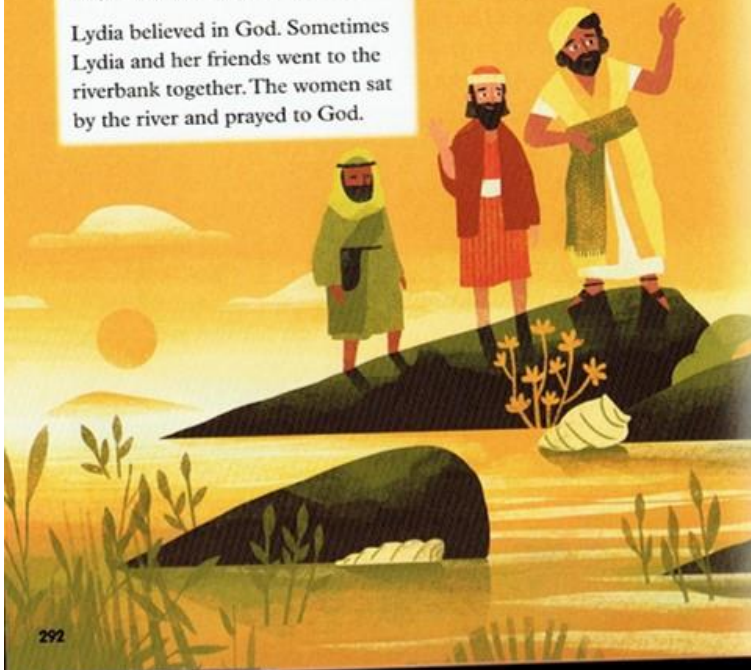
Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

Lydia

Acts 16:11-15

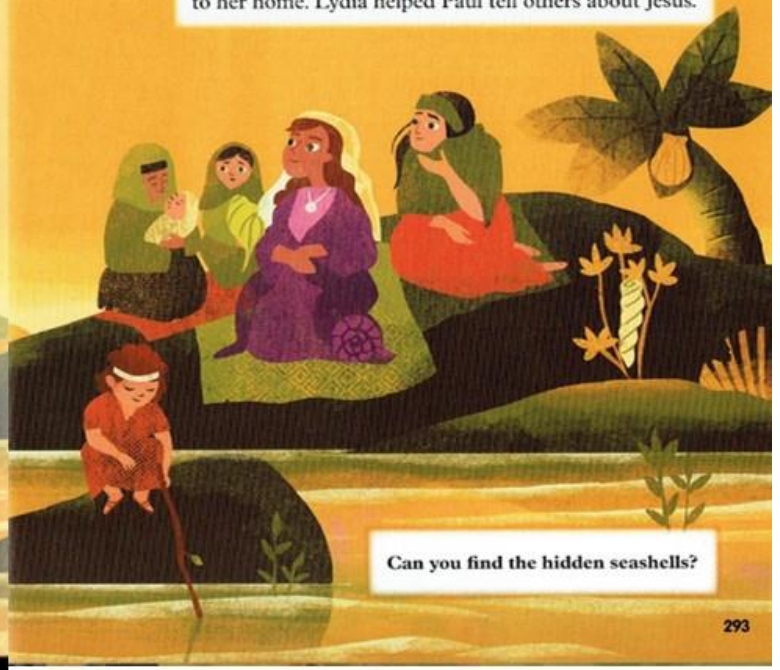
Lydia sold purple cloth. Lydia's cloth was very special, and it cost a lot of money. Only people who were very rich could buy Lydia's cloth.

Lydia believed in God. Sometimes Lydia and her friends went to the riverbank together. The women sat by the river and prayed to God.



One day Paul went to the riverbank and saw Lydia and her friends praying. Paul told the women about Jesus. Lydia believed what Paul told her, and she became a follower of Jesus.

Lydia told her family about Jesus. Everyone in her family became a follower of Jesus. Lydia invited Paul to her home. Lydia helped Paul tell others about Jesus.

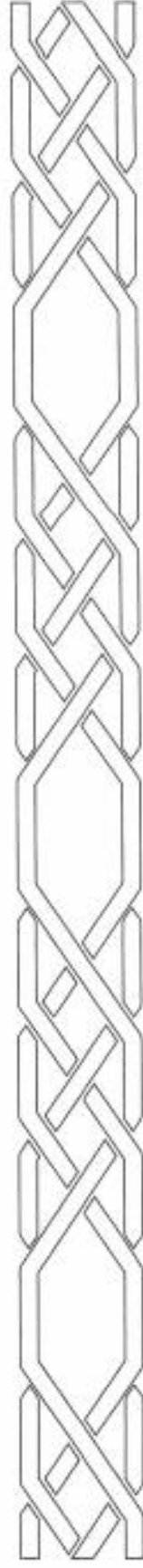


Can you find the hidden seashells?

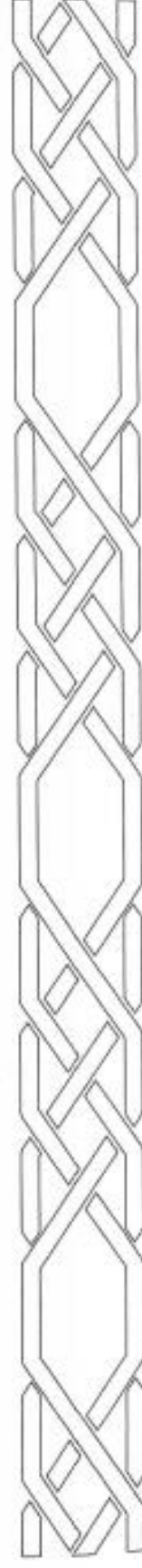
Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 3



GOD IS LOVE



Preschool Activity

Shell (Art)

Supplies: a print out of the preschool activity sheet below, and a purple color crayon.

Have your child(ren) color the shells purple.

Say: Lydia made purple dye out of a special shell. You can remember Lydia and how brave she was when you look at our artwork.

Wonder: What would you add to this story? How do you think people felt when Lydia told them about Jesus?

Be Strong (Music)

If you wish, revisit the song for this month – Be Strong (It is to the tune of “The Bear Went Over the Mountain”)

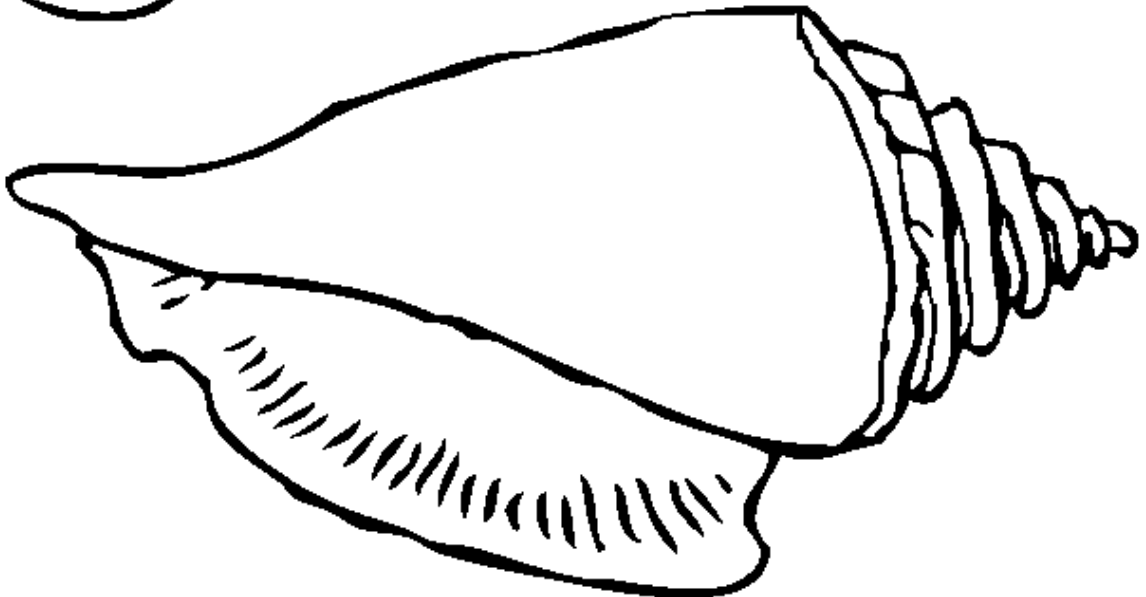
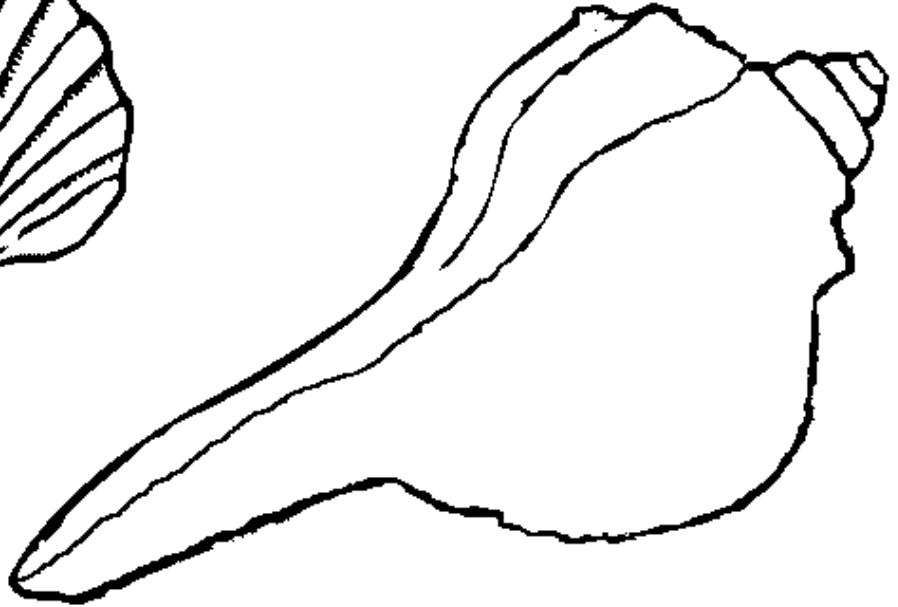
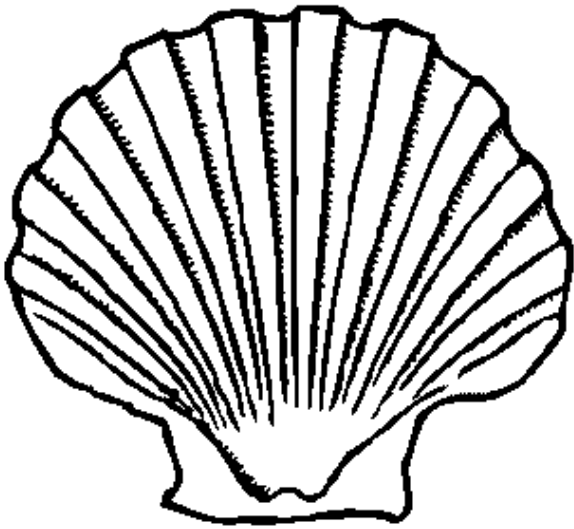
Say: The Bible story this week told us that Ruth and Naomi showed courage and cared for each other. Their hearts were strong in the Lord.

Doing spiritual practices help us connect with God and help make our hearts strong in the Lord too. Let's spend some time with God by singing the song together that we learned last week.

Sing: Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Be strong! Let your heart take courage!
Be strong! Let your heart take courage and be strong in the Lord!

Say: Our bible verse for the month is Psalm 27:14, the song we just sang. Saying or singing a favorite Bible verse can help us have courage.

Preschool Activity



Early Elementary Activity

My Church

Supplies: paper, pencils, colors, markers, or colored pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, Lydia learned about Jesus and then began the first churches.

WONDER: If you were to build a church, what would it look like?

ACTIVITY: Have the child(ren) draw what their church would look like. Be creative! Share with family!

Older Elementary Activity

My Church

Supplies: paper, pencils, colors, markers, or colored pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, Lydia learned about Jesus and then began the first churches.

WONDER: If you were to build a church, what would it look like?

ACTIVITY: Have the child(ren) draw what their church would look like. Be creative! Share with family!

Paul Taught Lydia About Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L P R A Y E R L L A F A C I D
U N T L L I Q U A C L O T H T
L O R Y R I V E R E M D I T O
N U L D A M C O N S W Q U O S
N O N I E H U I S C O L L P N
D R E A E L E X E R R R I E R
L A O R E M O A O R S I T N R
B E L I E V E R R E H A T E E
I T N I A T B H E T I S M D D
T I O N P E D E U G P A M V E
L A I Q A A T N O N S E C T E
T U H O U S E H O L D L I Q U
Z R I T L U F E U G A I T V U
L A O R E M O B A P T I Z E D
T H Y A R T I R A E T A T V E

BAPTIZED

BELIEVER

CLOTH

HEART

HOUSHOLD

OPENED

LYDIA

PAUL

PRAYER

RIVER

THYARTIRA

WORSHIP