



Date: _____
Series: Mother's Day
Spring Year 2, Lesson 52

Mothers Can Be Wonderful Examples

Take Home Point: *Thank you, God, for moms who point us to Jesus.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 16:13-15

Key Verse: Proverbs 31:30-31, "...a woman who has the fear of the Lord should be praised. Reward her for what she has done."

We will help kids know:

- The story of Lydia's conversion and how she paid attention to God's word. She responded because she loved God and was glad to learn about Jesus.
- We, too, can pay attention to God's word and respond.
- We can be thankful for moms who point us to Jesus as we pay attention to their example.




We will help kids feel:

- Secure in their mother's love for them and in their mother's character, as she models a godly example.
- Thankful for God's gift of mothers.

We will help kids do:

- Make a special Mother's Day gift expressing thankfulness to God for their moms.
- A special activity that helps them pay attention to God.
- A special activity that helps them remember how to pay attention to their mother.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Kids play a game that reminds them of the importance of paying attention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two paper arrows (p. 13) • transparent tape
Large Group 	5 8-10 10 10-11	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Tattles on His Mom.”—Gordy thinks his mom must have been in “timeout” because he saw her in a corner with a blanket over her head.</p> <p>Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>—Acts 16:13-15. Lydia pays attention to the message the apostle Paul preached. She accepts the Good News of Jesus and responds by being baptized.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Tattles on His Mom.”—Gordy sees how mothers who pay attention to God are good examples to their children and point them to Jesus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two paper arrows taped to Gordy’s arms (p. 13) • Gordy puppet • video, <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc. (1997)
Small Group Application 	5-7	The children will make a photo card to give to their mom (or special person) who is good role models that point them to Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cardstock sheets to make Mother’s Day cards • marker, crayons • construction paper picture frame to insert in card (made from die-cuts, appendix (p. 12), school houses, hearts, flowers, etc.)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Please be sensitive to children in your group who do not live with or have a mom. Help them think of another woman who cares for them in a special way. Help the kids in your group feel comfortable and safe speaking about their feelings.

How to play "Pay Attention." In advance, pick one child from your group to assist you and explain the secret of the game to him/her. Explain that you will ask the group to pay attention to you while you think of a number. If they are paying close enough attention, they will be able to know what the number is.

Secret Clue: Explain to the child that you will scrunch up your face or make a dramatic expression of concentration and at the same time cross your arms. The number of fingers you have showing when your arms are crossed is the number you are thinking. See pictures. (This shepherd is displaying the number four.)



Supplies: Two paper arrows with loop of tape on the backs

When ready to begin discussion, say to kids:

Today we will talk about paying attention. To what or to whom we pay attention is very important. Who do you think is the most important person to whom we should pay attention? (God, Jesus) Right. Jesus gave us the perfect example of paying attention to God his Father.

However, today I'm thinking of a person who can be a wonderful example for us. Who wants to guess whom I'm thinking of? Yes, it's moms and today is Mother's Day. Mothers can be wonderful examples of how to live our lives the way God would want. How have

you paid attention to your mom? What characteristics of hers make you want to be like her?

Let's play the game "Pay Attention." If you pay close attention, you will be able to guess the number I am thinking. To begin with, I need someone to whisper a number between one and ten in my ear so no one else can hear it. Then everyone will try to guess what it is. If you pay attention to what I am thinking, maybe you will be able to know what the number is.

Play the game "Pay Attention." Directions are above. A child other than the one who knows the secret, whispers a number in your ear and will later tell the group when someone has guessed correctly. The child that you have explained the secret to should get the right answer and therefore inspire more children to figure out the key to the game. Let kids take turns whispering a number in your ear.

Pay very close attention and see if you can tell what number I'm thinking of now.

Continue to do this, emphasizing the words, "pay attention" until the children clearly see that one child knows something they don't.

Now, boys and girls, I am going to give you a hint about what you should pay attention to in order to guess correctly.

Tape the paper arrows to your arms so they point to your fingers like the picture above.

Here we go again. Pay attention and you might know what number I am thinking of.

Again, go through the same motions as before but with the arrows pointing to your fingers. Call on anyone who thinks they have discovered the secret.

You are right. My fingers gave away the answer to what the number was. (Point out the child that knew the secret before hand.) (S)he knew beforehand what to watch. This made the job of guessing not really guessing but knowing.

Today, we will meet a woman named Lydia who paid attention to God. As a result, she was a great role model for others. We remember other special women in our lives that are also great role models, and so we should pay attention to them. Today we will **thank God for moms that point us to Jesus.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Tattles on His Mom.”—Gordy thinks his mom must have been in “time out” because he saw her in a corner with a blanket over her head.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts--Acts 16:13-15.* Lydia pays attention to the message the apostle Paul preached. She accepts the Good News of Jesus and responds by being baptized.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Tattles on His Mom.”—Gordy sees how mothers who pay attention to God are good examples to their children and point them to Jesus.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 16:13-15 in their Bibles.

Why did Paul and Silas go to a place along the river outside of Philippi on the day of worship? *(Acts 16:13. They thought they might meet some Jewish people who gathered there for prayer.)*

What did they do while at this place? *(Acts 16:13. They talked to the women who had gathered there.)*

What do you think Paul and Silas were talking about to these women? *(Jesus.)*

Who was Lydia? *(Acts 16:14. She was a convert to Judaism from the city of Thyatira. She sold purple dye for a living.)*

After Lydia paid attention to Paul, she responded to his message. What did she and her whole family do? (*Acts 16:15 – They believed and were baptized.*)

How did she honor God after she was baptized? (*Acts 16:15. She insisted that Paul and Silas stay at her home. She had a good income and used the gifts God had given her: her financial stability and the gift of hospitality to help Paul and Silas.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think Lydia may have been like before she believed in Jesus?

How did she point others to Jesus? (*She must have influenced her family as they too, were baptized.*)

Why was Lydia able to pay attention? (*Lydia's heart and mind were able to pay attention because God made her willing, verse 14. She loved God and he knew she would want to know about Jesus.)*

Lydia was paying attention to Paul's message. Do you think Paul may have paid attention to someone so that his message was clear to others? Who? (*Paul was paying attention to God. Paul was preaching the message as God told him to do, and Lydia received the message as God helped her to do. If we pay attention to God, we can help lead others to Jesus, also.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

How do you think Lydia is a good role model for us?

Our key verse is Proverbs 31:30-31, "...a woman who has the fear of the Lord should be praised. Reward her for what she has done."

Application Activity:

Today you can make a "Thank You" card to reward someone who has helped point you to Jesus. Since today is Mother's Day, you might use it as a Mother's Day card. Write "Happy Mother's Day" or "Thank you for your godly example."

Write the name of your godly role model on the front of the card. On the inside write, "Thank you for pointing me to Jesus." You can use one of these cutout patterns to make a picture frame on the inside of the card. When you get home, find a picture to insert in the frame before giving the card away.

Ask the following questions while kids are making their cards.

Who can tell us about a time when your mom or special person pointed you to Jesus? Or, think of examples of what she does to do that.

Do you pay attention to the actions and words of others who point you to Jesus? What do these actions look like?

How can you be more eager and willing, like Lydia, to pay attention to what God says to you? *(You can read your Bible and pray that God would fill you with his Holy Spirit so you can pay attention to him. You can also pay attention to people like your mom because she may point you to Jesus.)*

Remember, when Paul preached to Lydia, she was already in worship and prayer with her friends. (Acts 16:13)

Today in our prayers let's **thank God for moms that point us to Jesus.*

Closing Prayer:

Let each child thankfully pray for ways his/her mom or someone else has been a role model for them or helped point them to Jesus. Invite each child to pray that they would pay attention to what God wants to tell them.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy Tattles on His Mom Puppet Presentation

Gordy enters with arrows taped to his arms.

Gordy: Hi, Mr. King.

Mr. King: Hi, Gordy. What do you have there?

Gordy: Can't you tell? Or do I have to point that out to you?

Mr. King: Well, they look like arrows.

Gordy: Of course, they are.

Mr. King: What are you doing with arrows?

Gordy: My shepherd gave them to me because I was the one who figured out the secret to the game we were playing.

Mr. King: Oh, you mean when you were supposed to pay attention—and guess what number your shepherd was thinking?

Gordy: Yeah, everyone was looking at the shepherd's face when they should have been watching his hands.

Mr. King: Well, Gordy, that's very observant. You were looking at the hands.

Gordy: Sure. I thought there might be a surprise there for us. I always pay attention for candy.

Mr. King: Well, did you catch the point? The point is to pay attention to what God is saying to us and then do what he says.

Gordy: Yeah, I know that. Except for one thing.

Mr. King: What's that?

Gordy: How do we know what God is saying to us?

Mr. King: Well, we pretty much know from the Bible, but also there are people who are good role models and teach us about God's word. Today, I'm thinking about moms.

Gordy: Oh, that makes sense because today is Mother's Day.

Mr. King: Exactly. Can you think of how your mom is a good role model for you?

Gordy: Well, I don't know. I think my mom is in "timeout."

Mr. King: What?

Gordy: Yeah, I think she must be in trouble.

Mr. King: What do you mean?

Gordy: I saw her at home. She was sitting in her chair, by herself.

Mr. King: What's the problem with that?

Gordy: Well, she was in a corner.

Mr. King: Okay. What else?

Gordy: She had a blanket.

Mr. King: So, what's the big deal?

Gordy: The blanket was over her head.

Mr. King: You mean she was underneath the blanket?

Gordy: Yeah, I think she was in "timeout."

Mr. King: When does this happen?

Gordy: Well, I see it often, especially when we're kind of noisy.

Mr. King: What was she doing under there?

Gordy: I don't know. I was afraid to ask. She must have been in "timeout."

Mr. King: Maybe not, Gordy. Did you know that there was a lady named Mrs. Wesley who lived 200 years ago and her son grew up to be one of the greatest preachers of all time? When her kids got noisy and she needed time to pray, in order to pay attention to God, she would stop and put her apron over her head and take time to pray.

Gordy: That's weird.

Mr. King: Maybe not. Maybe that is what your mom was doing. Maybe she was just paying attention to God.

Gordy: Oh.

Mr. King: So today, Gordy, why don't you watch this special video clip about a lady named Lydia and the apostle Paul. Lydia was a lady who lived in the town of Philippi—a town that Paul visited during his second missionary journey. She had been paying attention to God and praying. In today's Bible event, Paul explained to her about Jesus. See if you can watch this and tell us what happens afterwards.

Show Acts 16:13-15 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts* produced by Visual Bible International, 1997. The story is about the woman, Lydia.

Gordy Tattles on His Mom

Puppet Conclusion

Mr. King: So, Gordy, did you see what she did after paying attention to what Paul said about God?

Gordy: Yeah, Lydia believed in Jesus.

Mr. King: That's right. What else did she do?

Gordy: Didn't she get baptized?

Mr. King: She sure did. Then she also insisted Paul do something. What was that?

Gordy: I forgot.

Mr. King: Okay, can any of you kids out there help me?

(She asked Paul to come stay at her house and accept her hospitality.)

Gordy: Lydia must have been a nice lady.

Mr. King: Yes. She reminds me of someone else.

Gordy: Who's that?

Mr. King: Your mom.

Gordy: Wait a minute. Lydia didn't have a blanket over her head, did she?

Mr. King: No. But she paid attention to God. Then she showed God's kindness and love to others.

Gordy: Well, that's a lot like my mom.

Mr. King: Gordy, have you thanked God for your mom?

Gordy: Thanked God for my mom? Like for what?

Mr. King: You could thank God for a wonderful mother who really cares for you and helps you learn about Jesus.

Gordy: Yeah, I probably really need to say "thanks" to God for that. But I have a friend named Joey, and he doesn't have a mom. What about him?

Mr. King: That's okay. God will have other people show care and be an example of Jesus' love for him. It might be a grandma, a shepherd here at church, a friend or relative. Joey needs to thank God for that person in his life, as well.

Gordy: That would be a cool thing to do on Mother's Day.

Mr. King: Yes, it would. I think it would be a great thing for all of us. Why don't we go back to our small groups and practice thanking God for moms, or others, that point us to Jesus.

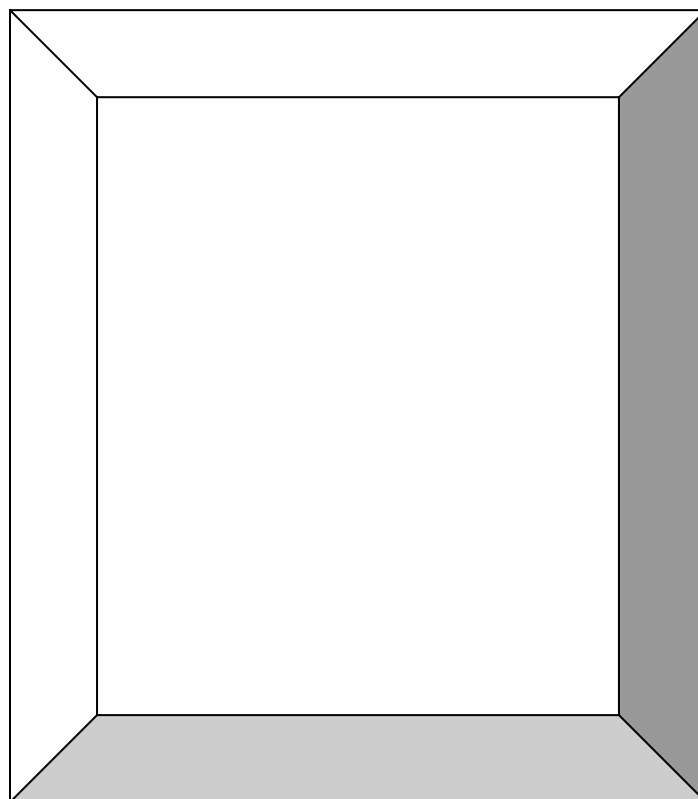
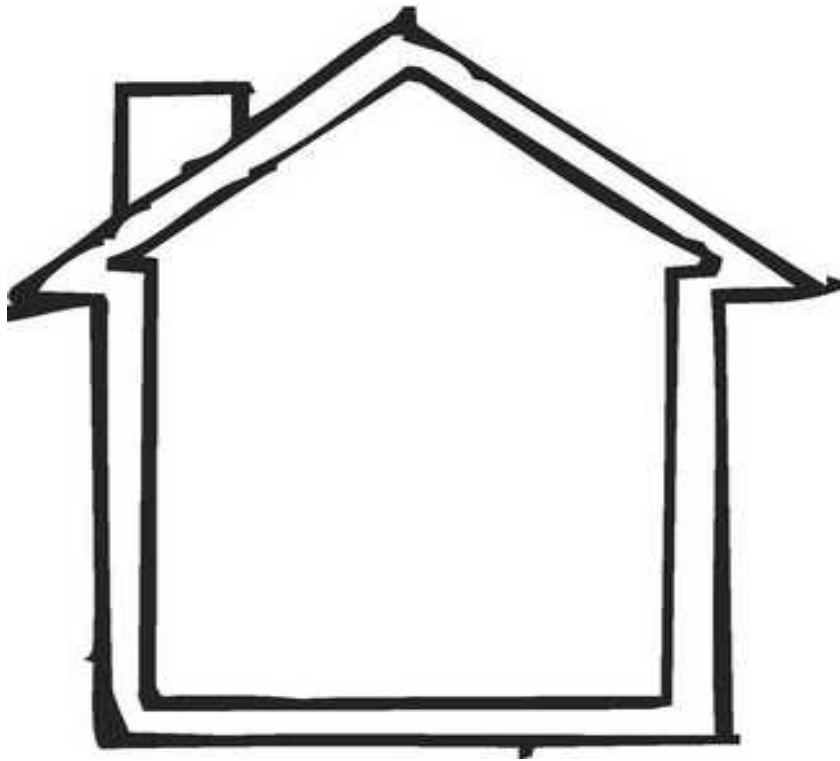
Gordy: That's a great idea.

Mr. King: Gordy, would you please say a closing prayer?

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for our moms that point us to Jesus. Help us pay attention to you and also pay attention to them. Today help us to do something nice for our moms that show them we love them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

NOTE: Charles Wesley's mother, Susanna, was the mother of 19 children. When she wanted to spend some time with God, she had a unique way of finding her "quiet" place. She would sit down in her kitchen and pull her apron up over her head. She would then spend time in prayer and the children knew not to disturb her.

Sample frames:



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