



Date: _____

Series: Join God's Family (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 56

Lydia Learns About Jesus and Believes

Bible Event: Acts 16:11-15

Take Home Point: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY - *Be kind to others.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus proved his kindness by dying for our sin.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that a woman named Lydia opened her heart and became a believer in Jesus. They will also learn that because of Jesus, Lydia was saved and was so happy she wanted to respond with kindness. Children will know that being kind to others is expressing God's love for us. They will learn the take home point: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – *Be kind to others.***
- Children will respond to God's message as they express acts of kindness, as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offering, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 56 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects that illustrate the story.

The traveler's backpack should contain a purple dress, towel or cloth, water in a jar with polished river rocks, scroll and cross.

My most recent adventure was just outside the city of Philippi. There I saw and heard a wonderful act that changed the life of a woman and her family. The woman's name was Lydia. She loved to sell beautiful purple cloth to people to make clothes. (Hold up the purple towel, cloth, or dress.) God knew Lydia loved him because she prayed to him and obeyed him. (Hold up scroll.) God also knew she didn't know about Jesus. So, God was happy that Lydia prayed but he was sad she didn't know about his Son Jesus.

Paul was a Christian who helped people like Lydia learn about Jesus. God sent his servant Paul to help teach Lydia and others about Jesus. Paul came to Lydia's city and found her at the river. (Hold up jar.) Paul began telling her about Jesus. Lydia listened to Paul and she believed that Jesus was God's Son who died on the cross for our sin. (Hold up cross.) Lydia knew how important this information

was. She knew it was so important that she learned and believed in Jesus. She wanted to show her joy and do something kind for Paul.

Let's read Acts 16:11-15 and find out what kind act Lydia did for Paul. *(She asked Paul and his friend to come stay at her house.)* When we express acts of kindness, we can demonstrate God's love and that we are part of God's family. Remember: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Be kind to others.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide mini blueberry muffins.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Make blueberry muffins with whole grain flour and fresh berries. If you don't have time to bake from scratch, share red grapes and talk the color purple Lydia sold.

Drama Zone: Provide purple clothes and fabrics. Children can act out the job of buying and selling cloth. Children can wear and act like important people who wear purple clothes.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to act out the many ways someone can be kind to someone else and/or how they can do a kind deed for their community, church, school, etc.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to act out a scene where people are being kind to one another or people are listening and learning about Jesus for the first time.

Play Zone: Have children sit in a circle and roll a ball to each other. The person who receives the ball describes a way to show kindness. That child then stands up and cannot have the ball rolled to them again until everyone is standing. Once everyone has had a turn or is standing, they can start all over again but from the standing position. When starting from the standing position, the child will roll the ball (like bowling) and whoever receives the ball will tell about a time someone was kind to them and then sit down. This repeats until everyone is sitting down.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Lydia.

Craft Zone: Make a cross laced with purple yarn. Provide a cross made from oak tag and prepunched with holes around the edge. Also provide precut purple yarn or string. The string should have a knot tied at one end and scotch tape at the other to make sewing easier. The children string the yarn around the cross.

Option: Make a cross and decorate with purple tissue paper. Provide a cross cut out from construction paper or oak tag, glue, and precut squares of tissue paper. The children will glue the tissue paper to cover the cross. If preferred, they can put a pencil/pen in the middle of the tissue square and twist it back and forth to make the tissue paper stand out before gluing on the cross.

Coloring Zone: “Lydia Learns About Jesus” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes on stage hugging her baby doll or toy very tightly. The presenter asks her why she is holding so tightly to her baby doll (or toy). She tells the presenter that she brought her baby doll (or toy) to church but everyone wanted to play with it and she didn't like sharing. She told everyone to leave her baby doll (or toy) alone. The presenter asked her what happened when she said that to the other children. Judy said that they looked sad and hurt. The presenter asks Judy if she might have missed something from today's Bible event.

Judy says the event was about a woman named Lydia who sold purple cloth for a living. The presenter asks the children in the audience to help tell Judy about Lydia. *(The presenter begins to tell the story and let kids fill in blanks.)*

Lydia sold purple (cloth).

Paul told Lydia about God's Son (Jesus).

Lydia believed and joined God's (family).

Lydia showed kindness and invited them to her (house).

How could Judy be kind? Call on two or three children. Remember: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Be kind to others.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video of your choice
- blocks, toys puzzles, paper and crayons

Praise Songs:

- your choice of music

Bible Event:

- Traveler's backpack and gear
- purple dress, towel or cloth
- water in jar with polished river rock
- scroll
- cross

Action Zones:

Snack Zone:

- mini-blueberry muffins

Drama Zone:

- purple clothes and/or fabric

Puppets:

- puppets to act out story

Felt:

- materials to reenact story

Play

- ball

Books

- basket of books including story of Lydia

Craft

- purple yarn or string, precut
- oak tag cross with pre-punched hole on edge

Option:

- make a cardstock cross
- purple tissue paper cut in small squares
- pencils
- glue, gluesticks

Closing Worship:

- Judy puppet
- baby doll or toy
- materials to reenact story

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books