



UNPOPULAR SERIES



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this resource.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic: Lydia – A heart open to God.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To explain the importance of being open to the word of God.



Lesson Takeaway:

God speaks to those who listen and are open to His word.



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Date:



Topic:

Lydia – A heart open to God.



Bible References:

Acts 16:11–15



Who was Lydia?

The Bible does not tell us much about the woman named Lydia. The little we know about her was written in a few verses, but we can learn very important lessons from those verses.

From the Book of Acts, we understand that Lydia was a businesswoman. She was a dealer in purple cloth, which was a luxury item in those days. She was from the city of Thyatira but lived in Philippi.

Lydia was described as a worshiper of God. This means that she was already seeking after God even before she met Paul. Her heart was in the right place, ready to receive the truth.



What did Lydia do?

In Acts 16:13-14, we read about a key moment in Lydia's life. "And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul."





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What did Lydia do? (Contd.)

Lydia listened attentively to Paul's teaching about Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that the Lord opened her heart to respond to the message. This indicates her openness and willingness to accept God's word.

Lydia's immediate response to her new faith was significant: she and the members of her household were baptized. Furthermore, she invited Paul and those travelling with him to stay at her house. She demonstrated hospitality and generosity.

Lydia's faith and hospitality had a great impact in the city of Philippi. By first opening her heart and then her house, Lydia played a key role in supporting the early church.



What can we learn from Lydia?

Lydia's story teaches us the importance of being open to God's word. Her faith and willingness to listen and respond positively to Paul's message shows that God blesses those who seek Him earnestly. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

From Lydia, we learn that we should always keep our hearts open to God. We may not always know when or how God will speak to us. But by keeping an open heart, we ensure that we are ready to receive His message whenever He speaks to us. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law (Psalm 119:18).





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What can we learn from Lydia? (Contd.)

So, when next you are listening to the word of God in church, at home or at school, make sure to keep an open heart. Be attentive to what you hear, ask questions if you don't understand and ask God to help you believe His word (see Acts 17:11).

Lydia's generosity and hospitality remind us to use our resources to support God's work. Her actions demonstrate the power and love of a transformed heart. We are encouraged to contribute to the church and help others grow in their faith.

You are not too little to contribute to the work of God. You can invite someone to church, encourage a friend, pray for the sick, and tidy up after Sunday School.

Lydia first opened her heart to God and then, her house and resources. God wants you to do the same today. He invites you to open your heart to Him (Matthew 11:28) and then you can give Him your resources.





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Memorize:

Luke 11:28 – "But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"



Scenario Review:

A new pastor came to your church to preach. You haven't seen him before or heard him speak before. As he was preaching, your friend sitting next to you, tapped you and whispered, "Well, this is boring. Let's go out for some fresh air". What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember: God speaks to those who listen and are open to His word.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You for giving me people who can explain the word of God. I ask that You open my heart to receive Your word. Help me to always be ready to listen and respond to Your message. Help me to use my resources to support the work of God. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

