

Lesson B4.5 - Welcome to My Home



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Acts 16:1-15

► Bible Characters: Paul, Silas, Timothy, Lydia
When Paul, Silas, and Timothy travelled to Philippi, they spoke to several women about Jesus. One of them was Lydia, a seller of purple cloth. She was so excited by what she heard that she wanted to be baptized. So, Lydia welcomed them to stay at her home and baptize not only her but her entire household!

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Mission

As the apostles traveled from place to place, they started new congregations in the towns they visited. In spite of rejection and persecution, the message of Jesus spread throughout the Roman Empire.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever had a relative or friend come to your place for dinner or stay overnight? What do we sometimes say when they arrive? "**Welcome to my home!**"

- What's your favorite thing about having guests visit? [Call on volunteers]
- When have *you* been a guest at someone else's house? Even if no one said, "**Welcome to my home,**" how did they make you feel welcome there? [Call on volunteers]

In today's Bible story, Paul and his friends met a woman named Lydia. She was so excited by what they told her about Jesus that she invited them to stay with her family. What was her message? "**Welcome to my home!**"

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Paul, Silas, and another young man named Timothy traveled to many places on their missionary journeys. They wanted to tell people all over the world about Jesus!

Read the caption: The Holy Spirit guided Paul and his friends. When they did not know where to go, the Spirit showed them the way.

- Which person is Paul, and which one is Silas in this picture? [Paul is wearing red and Silas is wearing green. Timothy isn't in this picture.]
- What are they doing? [Walking to a new place to tell people about Jesus.]



Picture 2

Tell the children: Wherever Paul and his friends went, more and more churches were started. These churches grew strong. Many people came to believe in Jesus.

Read the caption: One day, Paul and his friends went to a city called Philippi. There, they sat by a river and spoke to a group of women.

- What is Paul doing in this picture? [He is talking pleasantly to the women. He is smiling as he tells them about Jesus.]
- What are the women doing? [They are listening closely. They may be a little surprised that Paul is speaking to them.]



Picture 3

Tell the children: The women were interested in hearing what Paul and his friends had to say. Among the women was a seller of purple cloth, named Lydia.

Read the caption: When Paul talked about Jesus, Lydia listened well. God opened her heart and she believed. She asked to be baptized!

- Why is Lydia in the water in this picture? [She is being baptized. Sometimes people are baptized in churches, other times they may be baptized in rivers.]
- Have you ever seen a baptism? Where was it? [Call on volunteers to share their experiences.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: Lydia wanted to share her newfound faith with her whole family. So she asked Paul and his friends to baptize not only her, but her entire household!

Read the caption: After Paul baptized Lydia and her family, she invited him to visit her home. She was glad for Paul and his friends to stay there.

- What do you notice about Lydia? [She is dressed all in purple. She has several purple cloths hanging over quilt hangers.]
- What can you figure out about Lydia by looking at this picture? [She liked the color purple! In fact, she sold purple cloth. She was a businesswoman.]

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Paul was preaching one fine day
by the river, near the bay,
when a woman heard his words,
and was changed by what she heard.*

*Lydia — that was her name.
A merchant there of local fame,
she sold lovely, purple things:
cloth and garments fit for kings.*

*“Baptize me,” she said, “Please do,
and baptize all my household, too!”
And when they baptized them that day,
she asked them to her home to stay!*

g. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

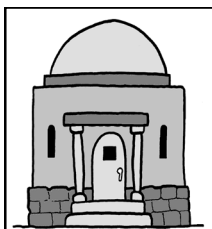
Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Activity: Lydia’s Purple Picture**Materials Needed:**

Copy paper, pencils, purple markers and/or crayons, glitter glue, purple construction paper, stapler

Instructions:

Lydia was a successful business woman who sold purple things. It is likely that she was quite wealthy and lived in a fairly nice home. Invite kids to imagine what that home may have looked like. Give each student a piece of white paper, a pencil, and a purple marker. Once they have an idea of what they would like to draw, instruct them to draw Lydia’s home lightly in pencil and go over the pencil outline with purple marker. Use purple crayons in different shades to add interest and extra color, but keep the general picture in hues of purple. Kid can add drops of glitter glue to their picture if they would like to give it an extra-glamorous look. Finally, give each person a piece of purple construction paper. Have kids center their pictures on the purple paper and staple them in place at each of the four corners. The pictures will now look as though they are framed in purple.



h. Song (optional)

Listen to this song on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children’s music sites. You can have boys sing the first part, girls sing the second part, and everyone join together on “that your joy may be full.” Challenge both groups to see which one can sing their part louder!

This Is My Commandment

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full:

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

** Sing a second verse, replacing the phrase “love one another” with “serve one another”*

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Paul and his friends traveled to many different places. One day, they met a woman named Lydia. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.*

*We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.*

*Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.*