

Lesson 5: Hospitality

Today's Bible Story

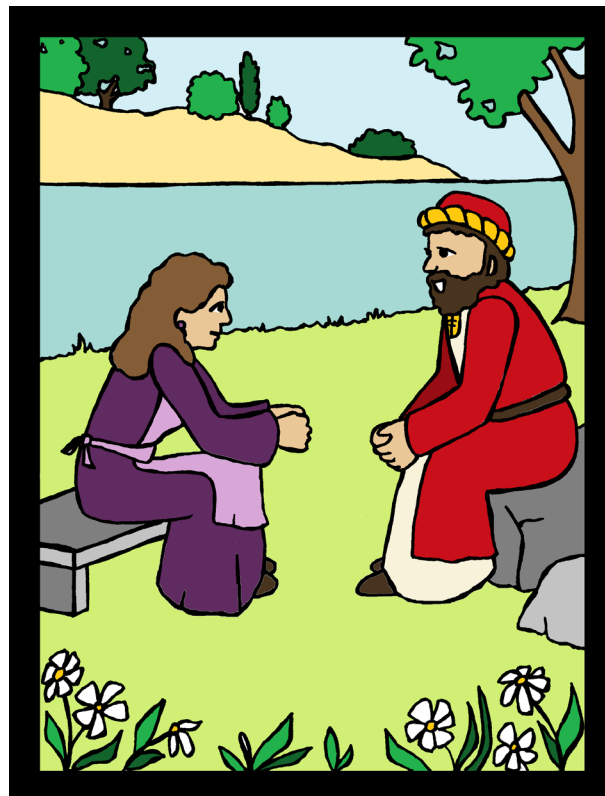
On one of their missionary journeys, Paul and Silas visited the towns of Derbe (*DER-bee*) and Lystra (*LIS-tra*). In Lystra, they met a young man named Timothy, a respected disciple who was part Jewish and part Greek. Timothy agreed to join them on their journey. Wherever they went, they shared the good news of Jesus. So each day, the churches in that part of the world grew stronger.

Next, Paul and his friends thought about going to some different parts of Asia. But the Holy Spirit kept them from preaching there, so they passed those places by. Eventually, they stopped in the harbor town of Troas (*TROE-as*). While staying there, Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia (*mass-a-DOE-nee-ah*) begging him, "Come here and help us." Paul knew that Macedonia was where God was calling them to go, so he made plans to travel there next.

As soon as possible, the group sailed to Philippi (*FILL-a-pie*) in Macedonia. It was an important city in the region. Paul and his friends stayed there for several days. On the Sabbath, they went outside the city gate to the river. Sitting down, they spoke to a group of women who were gathered there.

One of those listening that day was a woman named Lydia, who sold purple cloth for a living. As Lydia heard Paul's words, God opened her heart, and she asked to be baptized. Not only that, but she asked Paul to baptize her whole household, as well! So Paul and his friends did just that.

Afterwards, Lydia invited them to her home for a visit. "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord," she said, "Come to my house and stay." The disciples were pleased and accepted Lydia's kind offer.



From Acts 16:1-15

Bible Rhyme

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.

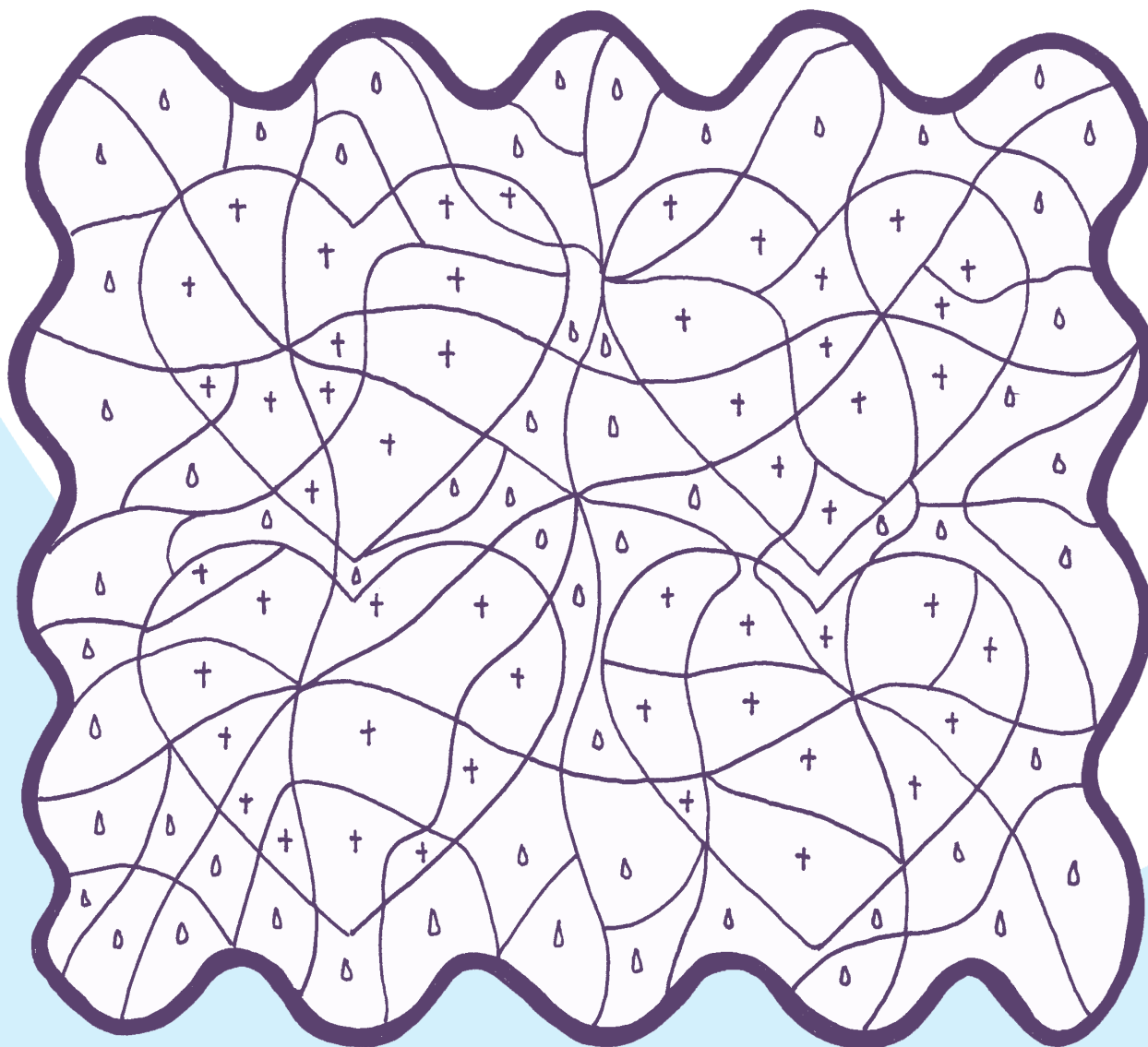
A merchant there of local fame,
she sold lovely purple things:
cloth and garments fit for kings.

"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!

Lydia was a woman who owned a fabric business. Help Lydia design a new cloth pattern!

On the cloth below, use light purple to color all the shapes with a cross on them.

Use dark purple to color all the shapes with a water drop on them.



The Bible says: “The Lord opened Lydia’s _____
to pay attention to what was said by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

For a clue to the missing word, look for the hidden shapes in Lydia’s cloth!



- 1) Through baptism, God made Lydia a part of his family of faith. Why do you think Lydia wanted her whole family to be baptized?
- 2) Are you part of God’s family? How do you know?