

## WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

### LYDIA

**Pray** and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

**Read** the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

**Begin** to answer the questions using your own words.

*Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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#### LESSON 20

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Dorcas and Rhoda** was helpful to you?

#### SECTION I: Read Acts 16:12-15, 40

2. a) From **V12**, where were Paul and his companions, and what do you learn about that city?  
  
b) From **V6-11**, how did they end up there, and what detail did you find intriguing?
3. a) It was their usual practice to go to a synagogue on the Sabbath (see **Acts 17:2**). Where did they go on this Sabbath, and why ? (**V13**)  
  
b) Why might they have deviated from their usual practice? (For one possible reason, see **Acts 13:44-52**.)  
  
c) How did they spend their time there?
4. a) In your own words, what details are revealed about Lydia in **V14**?  
  
b) What could it mean for a Gentile to be a "worshipper of God"?
5. a) From **V14**, what happened to Lydia that day as she listened to Paul's message?  
  
b) What was likely the substance of Paul's message? (For a sample sermon, read **Acts 13:26-41**.)  
  
c) The Bible says, "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." From this, write a truth about someone coming to faith in Jesus.

6. In light of Lydia's response to the Gospel, what can you conclude as you connect these verses:

**1 Corinthians 2:12-14** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a** \_\_\_\_\_

7. a) According to **V15a**, what was the impact of Lydia's conversion on her and also her immediate household?

b) What is the significance of baptism? For help, refer to **Romans 6:3-5** and **Galatians 3:26-27**.

c) How did Lydia's conversion change her relationship with Paul and his companions? (**V15b**)

8. a) Skim through **V16-39** and highlight the key events experienced by Paul and his companions.

b) What does **V40** say about Lydia and her life?

9. As the Lord opened Lydia's heart to the Gospel, she immediately opened her home to Paul and other believers. What effect has the Gospel had in the way you use your resources to encourage fellow believers? (See **Philemon 1:7**.)

## SECTION II: Read Philippians 1:1-11

10. a) How does Paul view the believers at Philippi (which would include Lydia) from **V1**, **V5** and **V7b**?

b) According to **V3-4** and **V7-8**, what words or phrases pop out that reveal Paul's emotional connection to the Philippians?

11. a) Paul is confident of what in **V6**?

b) How does this verse encourage you in light of your (or your loved one's) spiritual growth?

12. a) Paul prays for the Philippians in **V9-11**. Spend a few minutes praying through this prayer for yourself, for someone else, or for some group that God has placed on your heart.

12. b) Now put this prayer into your own words.

13. a) What is the danger of love apart from “knowledge and a depth of insight”? (V10)

b) What is the danger of bearing “fruit of righteousness” that doesn’t come from Jesus?

14. The fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ should always lead to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . (V11)

15. There was so much “good” that resulted from Lydia’s heart being opened to the Gospel.

a) As a “dealer of purple cloth” (Acts 16:14), she was clearly a successful working woman. How is her life an encouragement to you?

b) It appears that Lydia was the first convert in Philippi. How does this encourage you if you are the first convert in your family or sphere of influence?

16. Let some aspect from Lydia’s life help you form a prayer or prayer request.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

Lydia was a successful business woman of great influence. We are each called to honor God in the workplace. Though these verses reference “slave/master” relationships, they are equally insightful for employee/employer relationships.

1. Meditate on these verses and note what God expects of employees:

**Ephesians 6:5-6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 3:22-24** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 6:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Titus 2:9-10** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 2:18** \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do these verses say to those who hold positions of power over others in the workplace:

**Ephesians 6:9** \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 4:1** \_\_\_\_\_

3. If these Godly principles were followed in the workplace, how might the typical workplace look different than it currently does?

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a**

