

NOTES



PRAYER

Sovereign Lord, who made the earth and everything in it. We pray for those parts of the world that are closed to your gospel because of political and religious constraints. Protect and sustain believers in those countries through the comfort of your Holy Spirit. Raise up Christians of determination, faithfulness and ingenuity to work on their behalf around the world. Open doors for your word, Lord, and let it be carried by your people. For the eternal glory of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Keep on Praying: Prayers and Litanies for Mission - Church Missionary Society

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is something you purchased in the last year that you regret buying?



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WORD

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

[Acts 16:13-15](#)

Admittedly, there is a lack of detailed information about Lydia and her role in the Philippian congregation. However, there are strands of evidence drawn from the ministry of Jesus, the evangelist Luke's agenda, Acts, chapter 16, the letter to the Philippians, ancient Roman history, and organizational leadership theory that, when combined, raise the strong possibility that Lydia was a leader in the church. The fact that she was a woman would not have impeded her role, provided the Holy Spirit had gifted her to lead in some way.

The Philippian congregation may well have functioned as a family, and Lydia led her extended family household. As a prominent, wealthy, independent businesswoman, she had the acumen and skills to lead. Lydia had not spent her life hidden at home as custom required some first-century women to do. Instead, she spent her time in the marketplace, connecting with wealthy clients, negotiating, overseeing employees, and leading her business. She a proven leader, and it would have been wasteful not to unleash her in the church's mission.

[Peter Foxwell - Was Lydia a Leader of the Church in Philippi?](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your ability to pay attention to those who might be overlooked in society? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Lydia was very influential in her town, being a woman of business yet being outspoken for the sake of the Gospel, Do you see any of these qualities in yourself? Why/Why Not?
3. "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. Have you felt God open up your heart to see him for who he is? If so, what God do when you experienced the opening of your heart? If not, would you like to?
4. "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." (Vs 15). How important is it for you to offer hospitality or generosity? Why have you answered this way?
5. Lydia by all accounts was a leader in business and in the church. What spheres has God called you to be a shining example for his glory in?
6. Do you want to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.