

# Philippian Conversions



Acts 16:6-34



New Testament 8  
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 16:6-34

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" (Acts 16:30).

OLDER CHILDREN: "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'... And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized" (Acts 16:30,33).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Lydia"](#)
- ["Lydia"](#)
- ["The Philippian Jailer"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 13-26](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 8 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 2) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)



- [Map of Palestine](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Macedonian Call Poster](http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=366) (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=366>)
- [Paul's Second Missionary Journey Visual](http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=334) (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=334>)

## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must always put God first; He must always be the most important Person in my life.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week we talked about how we need to get along with others. Should we always get our way? Should we let our friends have their way sometimes? Even though we need to try to get along with everyone, we must always remember to do what God says first.

Have you ever been on vacation or gone to visit your grandparents? Do you go to worship services when you are away from home? We must always remember to worship God, read the Bible, pray to Him, etc. when we are at home or away from home. Today we are going to learn about a woman who found a place to pray to God even though there wasn't a place of worship in the city. Let's see what Paul taught her about God.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson, reminding the children the importance of **never** compromising God's Word.

When you are away from home do you go to worship services (i.e., at grandparents, on vacation, etc.)? Worshipping God is something we should do whether we are at home or away from home. God should always come first in our lives. Today we are going to learn about a group of women who found a place to pray to God even though there wasn't a place of worship in the city. Because they were gathered to pray, Paul was able to find them and tell them the good news about Jesus.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As we continue our ABCs of Acts, chapter 16 corresponds to "P," which stands for Philippian Conversions, i.e., people who became Christians in the Roman colony of Philippi.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Philippi became a Roman colony in 42 B.C. and was one of the most important cities of the Roman province of Macedonia. Both the city and the province were named after Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. Philippi was an outpost for the Roman army, and it was an important commercial center because it was near the sea. It was also located on one of the most important Roman highways: the Via Egnatia. The same things that made the city important to the Roman Empire made it important to the spread of the early Church.



2. Paul was told (through the Holy Spirit) not to go into the western part of Asia. So he and his friends sailed northeast to Philippi. Arriving in the city of Philippi, Paul looked for a ready-made audience at a synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his custom. Not finding a synagogue, Paul and his friends went to the riverside and found a group of women gathered to pray.



**NOTE:** Acts 16:10 is the first time that Luke uses the plural pronoun “we,” indicating that he became one of Paul’s traveling companions at that point in the narrative. He makes the same notation in 20:5-15; 21:1-18; and 27:1-28:16.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** According to Jewish custom, it was required that there be 10 Jewish men to have a synagogue (some sources say 10 households headed by men). Apparently, there were not 10 Jewish men in the city. So the women met at the next most common place of prayer: by a river.

3. One of the women in that group was Lydia. She was from the prominent city of Thyatira (about 200 miles from Philippi, in what is today Turkey), a city famous for its textiles and dyes, especially purple. Purple cloth was very expensive because it was hard work and very time consuming to get the purple dye used to make it, which came from shellfish. She and the women with her were apparently eager to listen to these men from far away who were teaching about Jesus. When Lydia learned about Jesus, the Church, and what she needed to do to be saved, she and all her household wanted to be baptized immediately. Then, she opened her home to the men, begging them to stay for a while longer.
4. We can learn several important things from Lydia, but probably the most significant is that she put God first. Being in a Gentile city where the markets were open every day, Lydia was losing money by setting aside time on Saturday to worship God. Whether she was a Jewess or a Gentile convert to Judaism (a proselyte), she was not ashamed or afraid to let everyone around her know she believed in and worshipped the one true God. She could have said, “There is no synagogue here so it will be all right if I don’t worship,” but she didn’t. She put God first, and so must we. When we are at home or away from home, we must never look for excuses not to worship God or look for ways to justify doing things we would not do at home.
5. Discuss worshipping God on vacation, etc., and making decisions about what we will do whether we are at home or away, etc. Read Hebrews 10:25 and Matthew 6:33 with the children and discuss.
6. Another thing we can learn about Lydia is that she was very hospitable. She was willing and eager to help these traveling teachers—to give them food and a place to live while they were in Philippi. [Discuss further the meaning of hospitality and age-appropriate ways that the children can show hospitality.]

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- [“Philippian Jailer Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 16 provided in activity sheets)
- On large index cards write the names of the main characters studied in Acts 13-16. Put the cards on the board. Then read a description of one of the characters. Let each child have a turn finding the name card of the character you have described.
- On white construction paper, write “Paul taught Lydia and other women by the river.” Provide each child with the following things to color and glue to their paper: river, tree, “Lydia” (or group of women), “Paul”

### **1st-2nd Graders:**

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 16 provided in activity sheets)
- “Who Am I?” Give clues, one at a time, about people from Acts. Let the children try to guess about whom you are talking. You can divide the class into teams and give point values for the questions (i.e., guess right on first clue = 3 points, guess on second clue = 2 points, guess on third clue = 1 point, etc.).
- Play “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into groups. Give each group a set of letters. Call out main words from the Acts study so far. Students race to see which team can spell the word correctly. The team that finishes first tells the importance of the word.
- Play the “Memory” game from last lesson, adding relevant words from this lesson (the [“Acts Memory Game”](#) from last lesson and the [“Acts 16 Memory Game”](#) additions from this lesson provided in activity sheets)
- Instead of “Hang Man,” play “Saved Man”: Ask the students (as individuals or teams) questions from Acts 16. If they answer the questions correctly, draw another “body part” of the Philippian jailer on the board. If the students answer enough questions, the picture should be of the jailer in the water being baptized. ([“Saved Man Activity Questions”](#) provided in activity sheets)

### **3rd-4th Graders:**

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 16 provided in activity sheets)
- “Who Am I?” Give clues, one at a time, about people from Acts. Let the children try to guess about whom you are talking. You can divide the class into teams and give point values for the questions (i.e., guess right on first clue = 3 points, guess on second clue = 2 points, guess on third clue = 1 point, etc.).
- Play “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into groups. Give each group a set of letters. Call out main words from the Acts study so far. Students race to see which team can spell the word correctly. The team that finishes first tells the importance of the word.
- Play the “Memory” game from last lesson, adding relevant words from this lesson (the [“Acts Memory Game”](#) from last lesson and the [“Acts 16 Memory Game”](#) additions from this lesson provided in activity sheets)
- Instead of “Hang Man,” play “Saved Man”: Ask the students (as individuals or teams) questions from Acts 16. If they answer the questions correctly, draw another “body part” of the Philippian jailer on the board. If the students answer enough questions, the picture should be of the jailer in the water being baptized. ([“Saved Man Activity Questions”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:

- Acts 16 (and 13-15 if they did not do so this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Acts 13-16 quiz from AP's [Advanced Bible Reader](#) site for the children to take.
- *Discovery* magazine article: "The Conversion of a Philippian Jailer," [December, 2008](#)
- *Paul's Journeys*, by Loyal Kolbrek, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: remove the sentence starting with "He felt the Spirit..." on p. 6)
- *Jailhouse Rock*, by Glynis Belec, Arch book
- *If Jesus Came to My House*, by Joan G. Thomas, Harper Collins Publishers (DISCLAIMER: Skip two pages depicting worship. You could take them together.)

## SONGS:

### "LYDIA" ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Angie McClure

(Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")

Take your Bible; take your Bible.

Open wide, open wide.

Turn to the book of Acts; turn to the book of Acts.

Look inside; look inside.

Paul and Silas, Paul and Silas,

Came to preach, came to preach.

Down beside the river, down beside the river,

They did teach, they did teach.

Lydia listened, Lydia listened,

To Paul's words, to Paul's words.

And her heart was opened, and her heart was opened,

By what she heard, what she heard.

For her household, for her household,

She did care, she did care.

A seller of purple, seller of purple,

The rich did wear, rich did wear.

Her name was Lydia, her name was Lydia.

To God she prayed, to God she prayed.

After Paul's lesson, after Paul's lesson,

She obeyed; She obeyed.

Lydia was baptized, Lydia was baptized,

As God said do, God said do.

She obeyed the Gospel; She obeyed the Gospel,

Her household, too; Her household, too.

Hospitality, hospitality,

She did show, she did show.

To Lydia's house, to Lydia's house,

They did go, they did go.

Lydia was happy, Lydia was happy.  
She learned that day, learned that day,  
She became a Christian; She became a Christian,  
She knew God's way, knew God's way.

**“LYDIA” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer”)

Ly-di-a sold fabric that was purple.  
She loved the Lord and at the river prayed.  
One Sabbath at the river she heard Paul preach,  
And decided to be baptized on that day.

She and her household, they all became Christians,  
And begged Paul and his friends with her to stay.  
They stayed with Ly-di-a, their newest sister,  
So happy she'd decided to obey.

**“THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”)

VERSE 1:

Paul and Silas were in prison; they were not afraid.  
They sang praises there at midnight, and they also prayed.

CHORUS:

Our God, our God, heard their prayer that night;  
All the doors were opened by His power and might.

VERSE 2:

The trembling jailer cried out to them, “What must I do to be saved?”  
When they preached Christ unto him, he was not afraid.

(CHORUS)

VERSE 3:

Then the jailer was so happy, the same hour of the night,  
He and those he loved so dear were baptized into Christ.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE  
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# Philippian Conversions



Acts 16:6-34



New Testament 8  
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 16:23-40; Philippians 4:4-7; Romans 8:28

### MEMORY WORK:

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Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When bad things happen to me or those close to me, I know that God will work everything out for my good.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review briefly Sunday morning's lesson. (See [N.T.8 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.

1. While Paul and his friends Silas, Timothy, and Luke were in Philippi, apparently still guests of Lydia, they continued to meet with others and to pray. For many days, a young girl (the slave of a greedy man) followed them around, crying out, “These are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” She had a “spirit of divination”—an evil spirit in her body.



**NOTE:** The Greek text in verse 16 literally says the girl had the “spirit of Python,” a mythical snake killed by the Greek god Apollo. Greeks believed that Apollo could take the form of the serpent and use its gift of predicting the future. To say the young girl had “the spirit of Python” meant that a very wicked force controlled her.

2. Apparently, many people believed that the girl really could tell what would happen in the future, and the men who owned her made a lot of money from her babblings. Paul became angry that the girl followed them so persistently. What she said was the truth, but Paul did not want the people who heard her to think that God was giving her the information, i.e., that she was the source of truth. So he healed her and the evil spirit could no longer force her to say or do anything she didn't want.
3. When her masters realized that they could no longer make money from the girl's fortune telling, they dragged Paul and Silas before the civil authorities (magistrates appointed by the Roman government). The men falsely accused (lied about) Paul and Silas (just as the Jews had falsely accused Jesus and Stephen). They said Paul and Silas were causing trouble, encouraging people to do wrong. Paul and Silas were severely beaten with rods. Then they were thrown into prison and had their feet in **stocks**. [See 2 Corinthians 11:23-25] (This was done not only to make public examples of prisoners, but also to try to get information from them.)



**Stocks:** a form of punishment where the feet, and sometimes hands, were bound in a large wooden frame.

- Undoubtedly in great pain after the beatings they had received, and without any medical attention, Paul and Silas began to sing and to pray. The other prisoners were listening [literally, “listening with pleasure”]. At midnight an earthquake shook the prison, freeing Paul and Silas and the other prisoners from their chains and opening all the doors. Yet not one prisoner tried to escape. Assuming that all the prisoners had escaped and afraid that he would be put to death for letting that happen, the jailer drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul called out to him to let him know that all the prisoners were still inside.
- The jailer asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul’s answer directs the jailer to what he must do to be saved because the man’s soul was much more important than his life as a jailer. After he and his household were taught about Jesus, they were all baptized into Christ. He took Paul and Silas to his house that night, treated their wounds, and fed them. They were released from the prison the next day and stayed with Lydia so they could encourage the Christians in Philippi to remain faithful to Jesus.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Baptism and the Philippian Jailer](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a more thorough discussion of the Philippian jailer’s conversion, especially as it relates to the essentiality of baptism in the plan of salvation.

- Paul and Silas did not enjoy being beaten or spending time in dark, filthy prisons. They did not like being lied about or laughed at, either. They did not sing and pray to God because they were having a good time in prison; they rejoiced because they believed that in every situation, ultimately, God would work everything out for good—for their own personal benefit and for the benefit of the Church. We are not happy when bad things happen to us either, but we can be just as certain as Paul and Silas that, if we have the same kind of faith they had, God will work everything out for good if we continue to trust Him.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.
- YOUNGER CHILDREN:** Make a jailer sack puppet. Write on the sack, “A jailer was happy because Paul and Silas taught him about Jesus,” or something similar.

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