



Winter 2020–2021 Theme:
The Call of God in the New Testament

Unit III: The Call of Women

Lesson Titles:

Showing Generous Hospitality

(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)

Lydia: Called to Serve

(Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

LESSON 13—February 28, 2021

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 33:1-12

Background Scriptures:

Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Print Passages:

Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Key Verse(s):

When she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us. (Acts 16:15, KJV)

• • • • •

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. (Acts 16:15, NIV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. After arriving in Philippi, where did Paul deliver the Gospel message and to whom?
2. How did Lydia respond to the gospel message she heard Paul preach? What did she do?
3. What does Paul say about God’s call and use of ordinary people in His work and service?

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Consider how Lydia used her gifts and her place in society to support Paul’s ministry.
- Repent of times you have looked down on others who have not had the same opportunities or advantages.
- Serve others joyfully through whatever means are at your disposal.

► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. Serving by the River for **Christ** (Acts 16:11-15, 40)

Key Point 1: On the Sabbath, Paul and his friends went to the river outside the city gate, expecting to find “a place of prayer.” (verse 13)

Key Point 2: Lydia responded to the Gospel message with faithfulness and generous hospitality.

II. Serving for the **Righteousness** of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

Key Point 1: God employs different standards than those of the world when He is calling people into His service. He can empower anyone to do His will.

Key Point 2: We are not worthy to serve because of what we have achieved in the world. We are worthy to serve because we have accepted God's call.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- This lesson unit dealt with the call of women in the work of Christ. In the lessons, we studied how God used women for the manifestation of His glory and grace.
- As God opened Lydia's heart to receive the things of God, He will also open the hearts of those who are eager to hear the Good News.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. When designated leaders are not available, how should laypeople carry on?

2. When opportunities arise, do you glory in personal recognition or do all you can to promote Jesus Christ instead?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
