

### Getting Started

Since your group has not likely been together since the fall, begin by checking-in with one another. What has been going on in your lives since you last met?

### Word

Read aloud Acts 16:11-15

1. In the first century, Paul traveled with companions, like Silas and Timothy, around the Roman Empire, stopping and visiting young churches. This paragraph describes a small part of one of those journeys—this particular journey is known as Paul’s “second missionary journey.” Take some time to look at the maps in the back of your Bibles—the last map is usually of Paul’s journeys. Locate Philippi which is in the northeast part of what we know today as Greece. What do you learn about Paul’s journeys just by looking at the map?
2. Now look at vs.11-15 again. Notice details. What do you notice? What questions do the verses raise for you?
3. Now pay particular attention to Lydia. List everything you discover about her. (This is the only time she is mentioned in the Bible.)
4. What does the fact that Lydia was a woman bring to the story? How about her being a “dealer in purple cloth”?
5. What does her offer of hospitality tell us about her? (v.15) About her new faith?
6. Does anyone in your group have a faith experience like Lydia? That is, after hearing some teaching or preaching about Jesus your faith came alive?
7. Invite two people in your group to share their **Faith Story in 100 Words** using the series questions as a guide (see other side of this sheet for the questions). Reflect together on what you hear—how are the stories similar? Different? Ask the people sharing their stories to talk about what the process of writing their stories was like. What did they discover?

**Share** Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

**Prayer** Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

### Getting Started

Since your group has not likely been together since the fall, begin by checking-in with one another. What has been going on in your lives since you last met?

### Word

Read aloud Acts 16:11-15

1. In the first century, Paul traveled with companions, like Silas and Timothy, around the Roman Empire, stopping and visiting young churches. This paragraph describes a small part of one of those journeys—this particular journey is known as Paul’s “second missionary journey.” Take some time to look at the maps in the back of your Bibles—the last map is usually of Paul’s journeys. Locate Philippi which is in the northeast part of what we know today as Greece. What do you learn about Paul’s journeys just by looking at the map?
2. Now look at vs.11-15 again. Notice details. What do you notice? What questions do the verses raise for you?
3. Now pay particular attention to Lydia. List everything you discover about her. (This is the only time she is mentioned in the Bible.)
4. What does the fact that Lydia was a woman bring to the story? How about her being a “dealer in purple cloth”?
5. What does her offer of hospitality tell us about her? (v.15) About her new faith?
6. Does anyone in your group have a faith experience like Lydia? That is, after hearing some teaching or preaching about Jesus your faith came alive?
7. Invite two people in your group to share their **Faith Story in 100 Words** using the series questions as a guide (see other side of this sheet for the questions). Reflect together on what you hear—how are the stories similar? Different? Ask the people sharing their stories to talk about what the process of writing their stories was like. What did they discover?

**Share** Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

**Prayer** Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

January 14, 2018

*My Faith Story in 100 Words: Lydia*

Acts 16:11-15

## Sermon Notes

1. What do you learn about Lydia? She is described as a “worshiper of God.” What might that mean?
2. Lydia is also described as a “dealer in purple cloth.” What significance does this detail bring to the story?
3. What about her faith story is most compelling to you?

### **My Faith Story in 100 Words** Questions:

1. When did Jesus Christ begin to get more of your attention?
2. Who or what played a part in this increased attention?
3. How is your life different today because of your faith in Jesus Christ?

People you want to pray for:

January 14, 2018

*My Faith Story in 100 Words: Lydia*

Acts 16:11-15

## Sermon Notes

1. What do you learn about Lydia? She is described as a “worshiper of God.” What might that mean?
2. Lydia is also described as a “dealer in purple cloth.” What significance does this detail bring to the story?
3. What about her faith story is most compelling to you?

### **My Faith Story in 100 Words** Questions:

1. When did Jesus Christ begin to get more of your attention?
2. Who or what played a part in this increased attention?
3. How is your life different today because of your faith in Jesus Christ?

People you want to pray for: