



### **Acts 16:11-16**

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a

woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 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.

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

### **Acts 16:39-40**

After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

## **Icebreaker**

Share one goal you have for the summer.

## **Conversation Starters**

1. Who are some ordinary people who had a positive impact in your life? Who are some ordinary people who had a positive impact on how you see God, how you see faith?
2. How did they impact you? Have you ever told them about their impact or thanked them?
3. Have you considered some other 'hidden heroes' of the Bible? Is there one that you identify with? Why?
4. Does your faith make a difference in your work? What difference does your work or the things you are passionate about make in the church?
5. Do you think the Lord opens the hearts of people today so they can receive a message? Have you experienced it in yourself or someone else?
6. Brian taught that Lydia was probably a courageous risk taker. Do you consider yourself a courageous risk taker?
7. The Book of Acts describes Lydia as a dealer in purple cloth, the head of her household, a worshiper of God, one who humbly listened and learned, probably an immigrant, the first recorded Christian convert on the soil of Europe and the leader of a house church. She probably just considered herself an ordinary person responding in faith. **Which of these attributes of Lydia would you like to know more about?**
8. Where do you need to be a humble listener and learner? At home, in our society, at work, at church?

