

PRAYING BY THE RIVER

BIG IDEA

God directed Paul, Timothy, and Silas to preach in northern Greece. God's kingdom grew as Lydia, the first convert from the continent of Europe, trusted in Christ.

KEY VERSES

Acts 16

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 16:14b

"The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Cast: 7-9 people. Narrator, Holy Spirit, 2-4 women, Silas, Lydia, Paul
- No props needed

GAME

- Clothes pins (5 per child)

CRAFT

- Black felt 9x12 inches (one per child)
- Various colors of felt (4.5 x 6 inches of each color per child)
- Cardboard 9x12 inches (one per child)
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



PRAYING BY THE RIVER

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

Lesson 9

STAGING AND TIPS

This story contains a number of uncommon names. Be sure that you know how to pronounce them.

Position the women on the left side of the stage; the Narrator and the Holy Spirit in the center, and Paul, Silas, and Lydia on the right side of the stage.

SCRIPT

Narrator: Paul and his friends were traveling around spreading God's Word.

Paul: Jesus is the Savior!

Silas: Trust in him! Trust in him!

Narrator: They wanted to tell lots of people about Jesus, and sometimes God sent them where they didn't expect.

Paul: Silas?

Silas: Yeah?

Paul: Let's teach west of here, over in Turkey!

Silas: Sounds good to me, Paul!

Narrator: But the Holy Spirit let them somewhere else!

Holy Spirit: (With rhythm) Stop!
Don't DO IT!
Don't try to travel THROUGH IT!
Don't travel there
Just go to where
I Say,
Or else you BLEW IT!

Paul: Alrighty then, God! Whatever You say!

Silas: Well, then, where should we go?

Paul: Hm... Silas, I don't know... How about we head north, up by the Black Sea!

Silas: Sounds good to me, Paul!

Narrator: But God's Spirit had another plan:

Holy Spirit: (With rhythm) Stop!
Don't DO IT!
Don't try to travel THROUGH IT!
Don't travel there
Just go to where
I Say,
Or else you BLEW IT!

Paul: Alrighty then, God! Whatever you say!

PRAYING BY THE RIVER

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 2)

Lesson 9

- Silas: Well, then, where should we go?
- Paul: Hm...Silas, I don't know.
- Narrator: That night, Paul had a dream and he saw a man from Europe begging them to come there.
- Paul: My dream must have come from God! He wants us to cross the Aegean Sea and preach in northern Greece!
- Silas: Sounds good to me, Paul!
- Holy Spirit: (With rhythm) Yes!...
Go TO IT!
Go on and travel THROUGH IT!
Go over there
And show you care.
I'm sending you to DO IT!
- Paul: Alrighty then, God! Whatever you say!
- Narrator: So they sailed to Europe and arrived at a town called Pilippi on Saturday, the day of rest and worship.
- Silas: Ah, a day of rest and worship!
- Paul: A day to play and pray!
- Narrator: They went outside the city to the river, where they'd heard some women meet to pray.
- Women: (Together) We pray by the river!
We pray by the BANKS.
To the God who delivers,
We give all our THANKS!
- Narrator: One of the women there was rich. She sold linen for a livin'. Her name was Lydia—Linen livin' Lydia.
- Lydia: I sell purple cloth and purple clothes! I like purple. It's wonderful!
- Women: (Together) We pray by the river!
We pray by the BANKS.
To the God who delivers,
We give all our THANKS!
- Narrator: Lydia worshiped God, but didn't know about Jesus.
- Paul: Jesus is the Savior, Lydia!
- Silas: You can have eternal life when you trust in him!
- Narrator: As she listened, God opened up her heart.
- Lydia: I believe! I believe!
- Narrator: And she was baptized right there in the river.

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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 3)

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Paul: How convenient.

Silas: No kidding.

Women: (Together) We pray by the river!
We pray by the BANKS.
To the God who delivers,
We give all our THANKS!

Lydia: Very nice.

Narrator: And then a bunch of her friends and relatives believed, and they were baptized, too!

Women: (Together) We pray by the river!
We pray by the BANKS.
To the God who delivers,
We give all our THANKS!

Paul: Awesome.

Silas: Radical!

Lydia: Wonderful!

Narrator: Lydia was the first person from Europe to become a believer.

Paul: I'm glad we listened to my dream!

Lydia: Me, too!

Narrator: Then she invited Paul and Silas over to dinner and they came to stay with her.

Paul: Thank you!

Lydia: No, thank you!

Paul: For what?

Lydia: For telling me about Jesus. He's WONDERFUL!

Paul & Silas: (Together) You're welcome, Lydia!

Narrator: Paul and his friends listened to God and went where he told them, and great things happened!

Women: (Together) We believed by the river!
We believed by the BANKS!
To the God who delivers,
We give all our THANKS!

Narrator: And God's kingdom continued to grow...and grow...and grow!

Everyone: (Together) The end!

PRAYING BY THE RIVER

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 4)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jewish people like Lydia and her friends were already committed to God and prayed often. Why was it important for God to send Paul to tell Jewish people about Jesus?
- The first time God communicated to Paul it was with a bright light and a clear voice. How did God communicate to Paul in this story?
- How did Paul and Silas react when the Holy Spirit stopped their plans to go to Turkey or the Black Sea?
- Lydia was a rich business woman who was told about Jesus and she believed. Name some other types of people who heard the gospel and believed from other lessons this summer (Simon the Sorcerer, Saul who persecuted Christians, an Ethiopian treasurer, the beggar in the Beautiful gate.)
- Does it matter to God if we are rich or poor or good or bad when we hear and believe the news about Jesus?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Tell the account of Lydia's commitment to God in simple story form or read it from a children's bible.*
- *Ask 2-3 of the simpler discussion questions.*

PRAYING BY THE RIVER

CRAFT

Lesson 9

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: FELT BOARD PEOPLE

Make felt boards and felt people.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Glue black felt to cardboard to create a felt board
- Kids cut out colored felt shapes such as shirt, pants, shoes, head, hat, etc.
- Place the felt shapes on feltboard to create different people

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Black felt 9x12 inches (one per child)
- Various colors of felt (4.5 x 6 inches of each color per child)
- Cardboard 9x12 inches (one per child)
- Glue

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Draw body shapes, hair shapes and clothing shapes for kids to cut out
- OR pre-cut body parts, hair and clothing



PRAYING BY THE RIVER

GAME

Lesson 9

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: HUNTING FEVER

Try to grab clothes pins from other players while protecting your own.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Clothes pins (5 per child)

DIRECTIONS

- Each player pins 5 clothespins to his clothing.
- All the players walk inside a bordered-off playing field and try to grab the other players clothespins.
- You may only take another players clothespins if you still have at least one of your own.
- The winner is the player with the most clothespins after several minutes of game play.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- *Divide a large group into smaller groups based on age or size*
- *Reduce the number of clothes pins to shorten the games.*



PRAYING BY
THE RIVER
Lesson 9



Kids Club

