### Age-Level Overview

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<tr>
<th>Lower Elementary</th>
<th>Open the Bible</th>
<th>Activate Faith</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</strong> We can be good listeners.</td>
<td><strong>SPARK RESOURCES:</strong> Spark Story Bibles</td>
<td><strong>SPARK RESOURCES:</strong> None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LYDIA SAYS:</strong> Kids respond to Lydia's commands for action.</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> None</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> Masking tape, bandanas, shoeboxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOOD LISTENERS:</strong> Kids try to follow directions in the midst of distraction.</td>
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<th>Upper Elementary</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</strong> We can be good leaders.</td>
<td><strong>SPARK RESOURCES:</strong> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</td>
<td><strong>SPARK RESOURCES:</strong> None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOLLOW THE LEADER:</strong> Kids follow directions while trying to keep the identity of the leader hidden.</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> None</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> Chairs, paper, tape, marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES OR NO:</strong> Relay teams race to answer yes-or-no questions about Lydia.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>All Kids</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</strong> We know that God loves each of us.</td>
<td><strong>SPARK RESOURCES:</strong> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PICTURE RELAY:</strong> Relay teams draw Lydia's story.</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> None</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLIES:</strong> Mural paper or leftover wallpaper rolls, copy paper, masking tape, markers, pencil, purple scarves or fabric, chairs,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LYDIA RELAY:</strong> Kids run to put on purple scarves.</td>
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</table>

Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation’s story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.
Workshop Focus: We can be good listeners.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Lydia Storytelling

As kids arrive, use a soft voice to greet them and show them where to sit. Continue talking softly when you speak to the whole group. Welcome to the Bible Skills and Games workshop. We are very glad to see you all here today. Ask kids if they have noticed anything about the way you are talking. I’ve been talking softly to see if you were listening. Today we’ll talk about a woman named Lydia. She listened very carefully when Paul told her about Jesus. Open to Lydia on page 532 in your Spark Story Bibles. Ask kids to look at the pictures or follow the words as you read.

How could you tell Lydia was a good listener? Help kids name the actions Lydia took in response to his words. (asked to hear more, asked to be baptized) She asked Paul to tell her more because she wanted to learn everything she could about Jesus. She wanted to be baptized. What did Paul teach? Allow time to respond. He taught that Jesus loves us and that Jesus came to earth to teach us how to live and to save us from our sins. Because Lydia was a good listener, she learned a lot.
Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Lydia Says

Set Up: Use masking tape to mark a starting line.

Activity Instructions
Lydia listened very carefully to what Paul told her. She wanted to hear more. She wanted to learn everything she could from Paul. Today we are going to play a game similar to Simon Says, only we will say, “Lydia Says.” We are going to see if you are good listeners. If you do the action and I did not say, “Lydia Says,” then you will have to start over. The first kid to get to me will take my place and be the caller.

Have all the kids line up on a line at one end of the room. Stand at the other end as you call out directions such as, “Lydia Says wave both hands as you take two steps forward!” “Lydia Says turn around two times and take one step backwards!” “Take four hops forward and one hop backwards!”

If kids do the action or even start to do the action when you did not say, “Lydia Says,” they go back to the beginning. The first kid to get to you will become the caller. Play several times so that many kids have a chance to be the caller.

Option: Give each kid a strip of purple crepe paper to use. Then say things like, “Lydia Says put her purple cloth on the floor and walk around it.” “Lydia Says wave her purple cloth in the air as you take two steps forward.” “Lydia Says hold her purple cloth with both hands above your head and turn around.”

What made it difficult to hear the commands? Was there too much noise? Did the caller speak too softly? Sometimes it is difficult to listen, to hear people talking to you. Sometimes we just need to take a little time to have a quiet body and a quiet mind, so we hear everything around us. How do we hear God speak to us? We can listen to what God has to say to us by reading the Bible, by coming to church and Sunday school, and by listening to our parents and friends talk about Jesus. Can you think of other ways we can listen to God?

Good Listeners

In this partner game, one kid will be blindfolded and his or her partner will try to guide him or her to the hidden object by giving directions. Everyone else in the room will make noises to distract the process. Be sure all kids have a chance to try to follow directions and to give directions.

1. **Okay, everyone. Find a partner.** Ask one pair to help you start the game.

2. **In our first game you were able to see as you listened. In this game, one person at a time will not be able to see and will need to listen to his or her partner to know where to go.** Put the bandana around one kid’s eyes.
3. Place the shoebox (or other object of your choice) where everyone can see it. Talk to the partner who can see the object: Help your partner find the shoebox by giving directions such as, take three steps forward, turn toward me, bend down, reach up, or move your hands to the left. The trick is this: you can only talk. No touching. Sound easy?

4. Tell everyone else their job is to make sounds that might keep the partners from hearing each other—snaps, claps, foot stomps, speaking (not shouting) other directions, or whooshing sounds.

5. Let's try it! If you’re the person trying to find the shoebox, you’ll need to concentrate on your partner’s voice.

6. Repeat until everyone who wants a turn has had a chance to try.

What made it difficult to concentrate on your partner’s voice when you couldn’t see? Did the rest of the kids distract you? Sometimes when we are listening to God, it is very easy to get distracted and we have to focus on what we are hearing.

Tips: Respect the wishes of the youngest kids if they don’t want the rest of the kids distracting them. If you have a lot of kids, you may want to form two groups so everyone has a chance to speak and to listen.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven’t already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

It seems like everywhere we go we have to listen. What do you listen to at home? Allow time for responses. What about at school? Who do you hear at church? Kids will probably say the pastor and Sunday school teachers. Help them think of all the other sounds at church—in worship, in the hallways, when playing or eating together, etc. There is so much to hear! Where do you go or what do you do when you want to listen to God? (prayer, the Bible, songs, nature) Thanks for coming today. I'll see you next time at Bible Skills and Games (or the name of your workshop).

Prayer Time

Gracious God,

Thank you for listening to us whenever we pray and wherever we are. Help us to listen to you, to our parents, to other family members, to teachers, and to friends. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.
Workshop Focus: We can be good leaders.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Lydia Storytelling

Welcome kids. Privately ask the Shepherds to take turns following each other around the room. See if anyone joins without invitation, then motion for a few kids to follow. Try to get all of kids to join without using words. Welcome to the Bible Skills and Games workshop. I noticed you started to follow us around the room. How did you know to do that? Allow time to respond. What does it take to be a leader? Help kids think about things leaders say and do.

Today we’ll talk about a great leader named Lydia. Turn to Acts 16:11-15 on page 1224 in your Spark Bibles. Have I Wonder stickers ready to place where you have questions. Please follow along while I read the story aloud.

Tell me what you know about Lydia. Listen to kids’ responses, and then talk about Lydia as a leader. Do you know women who are leaders? Allow time for responses. At the time Paul visited Lydia, it was very rare for a woman to be a leader. But Lydia, a leader in business, sold purple cloth to the rich and famous.
After Paul visited, how did Lydia lead people to God? (worshipped God, listened eagerly to Paul, was baptized with her whole household, gave Paul a place to stay) Later she told many others about Jesus and invited more of Jesus' followers to stay in her home. She was already a leader in her community and now was probably a leader in the early church.

**Activate Faith (25 minutes)**

**Follow the Leader**

**Set Up:** Place chairs in a circle.

**Activity Instructions**

In this circle game, kids try to follow a leader without disclosing who the leader is. **Lydia was a good leader. It's not always easy to lead. Today you'll get a chance to try.**

1. Ask for a volunteer to be IT and have him or her leave the playing space briefly.

2. Choose one kid to start leading actions (touch nose, tap knees, move your foot up and down, roll shoulders, etc.). Tell kids that when IT returns they should continue to follow the leader's actions, but try not to let IT see who the leader is.

3. Invite IT back to the center of the circle to try to name the leader—the person changing the actions.

4. If IT identifies the leader, the leader becomes the new IT. If after three guesses the leader is unknown, ask IT to leave again, or select a new IT.

**Helpful hints to keep the game vibrant:**

- Encourage the leader to change actions often.
- Remind followers to look in a variety of directions, so it's harder to identify the leader.
- If IT is having trouble finding the leader, suggest IT turns around quickly to try to catch someone in the middle of changing an action.

When you've finished playing, talk about the ease or difficulty of being a leader and of following a leader. **Was it difficult being the leader? Was it difficult to change your actions without getting caught? Sometimes it is very difficult to be a leader.**
Set Up: Place two chairs, one labeled “YES” and one labeled “NO,” at the opposite end of the room from where kids will be. Establish a starting line for the game.

Activity Instructions
In this game, kids earn points for their teams by correctly answering yes-or-no questions.

Now that we have listened to the story of Lydia, let’s play another game to see what we remember.

1. Divide kids into two teams and ask them to stand in two lines behind the starting line.

2. I’ll ask a yes-or-no question (see list below) to the kids at the front of the line. When you think you know the answer, run to the appropriate chair and sit down. The first kid to get to the appropriate chair gets a point for his or her team. NOTE: It will be difficult for team members to not yell out the answer to the runners. Before beginning to play, establish a rule whether teammates can help one another or if kids have to answer on their own.

3. Tell the runners to return to the back of the line. Continue asking questions from the list below until all kids have had a chance to answer.

Suggested Questions

1. Did Paul meet Lydia in Troas? No (in Philippi)
2. Did Paul and his friends sail to Philippi? Yes
3. Did Paul and his friends stay in Philippi for several days? Yes
4. Was Lydia from Philippi? No (she was from the city of Thyatira)
5. Did Paul go down to the river on Wednesday? No (on the Sabbath)
6. Did Paul and his friends go to the river to find a place of prayer? Yes
7. Were there women gathered by the river? Yes
8. Were there men gathered by the river? No (the Bible only mentions women)
9. Did Paul speak to the women by the river? Yes
10. Did Lydia worship God when Paul met her? Yes
11. Did Lydia sell orange cloth? No
12. Did Lydia sell purple cloth? Yes
13. Did Lydia listen eagerly to Paul? Yes
14. Did Lydia get baptized? Yes
15. Were other members of Lydia’s household baptized? Yes
16. Did Lydia invite Paul and his friends to stay at her house? Yes

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven’t already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Can you name people who you think are good leaders? Why? Kids may have varying opinions. This is a good opportunity to focus on why they think the leader is good. **Paul was a good leader and Lydia was a good leader. But they both were good listeners first. Thank you for coming today and being good listeners and good leaders. Join us the next time at Bible Skills and Games** (or the name of your workshop).

Prayer Time

**Loving God,**
Thank you for always being with us. Help us to be good listeners and good leaders. Guide and direct us to do the right things. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.
Workshop Focus: We know that God loves each of us.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Lydia Storytelling

Greet kids as they arrive and show them where to sit. Ask kids about trips they have taken. Talk about how they traveled. Today we’ll talk about Paul, a follower of Jesus who traveled many places by boat. He was telling people about Jesus. At one of his stops he met a woman named Lydia. Paul told Lydia and the people with her how much Jesus loved them. Lydia listened and wanted to hear more. Open to Lydia on page 532 in your Spark Story Bibles and to Acts 16:11-15 on page 1224 in your Spark Bibles. We’ll read more about how Jesus’ love affected Lydia. Follow the words or pictures while I read. If you have I Wonder stickers, place them beside a part of the story where you have a question that isn’t answered.

What did Lydia do after hearing about Jesus? Allow time to respond. She listened eagerly to Paul. Then she and the members of her household were all baptized. She invited Paul and his companions to stay at her home. She had learned the greatest thing we can learn—that Jesus loved her.
Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Picture Relay

Set Up: Determine the drawing area for the teams (tape mural paper on the wall, or on tables side-by-side) and put markers by each paper. Mark the starting line on the floor with masking tape. Make one “Drawing Lydia’s Story” list for each team beginning with these suggestions:

- Boat (Paul used a boat for his travels)
- River (Paul went near the river to a place of prayer)
- Gate (Paul went through the city gate by the river)
- Praying hands (Paul went to pray)
- Purple cloth (Lydia sold purple material)
- Water (Lydia and her household were baptized)
- House (Lydia invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house)
- Heart (God opened Lydia’s heart to listen eagerly to what Paul had to say)

Activity Instructions

Two teams race the clock to draw pictures from Lydia’s story.

Lydia learned how much Jesus had done for her, and she wanted to tell other people. It’s likely her home became a spiritual center where people gathered. She immediately used whatever she had to help spread the good news to others.

I wonder what you would have seen if you had been in Philippi. Relay teams will draw Lydia’s story today. The first kid in line will get a list of objects from the story. When you’re the first in line, keep the list and run to the paper to draw the first object on the list as fast as you can. While you draw, the rest of your team will name where that object shows up in the story. Run the list back to your team to hand it off to the next kid in line to draw the next object. Be sure the kid who is drawing always has the list.

Divide kids into teams (be sure every kid has a chance to draw), and ask them to line up behind the starting line. If your groups are ready for a challenge, tell kids they must name how or where the object appears in the story before the next person starts to draw. You may want a couple of Spark Bibles nearby.

Option

If you don’t have space to run, divide into groups where one person will draw and the rest of the group names the object.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Mural paper or the backs of leftover wallpaper rolls, 1 sheet per team
Copy paper, 1 sheet per team
Masking tape
Markers
Pencil
**Lydia Relay**

**Set Up:** Place the purple scarves or fabric at one end of the room on chairs and mark the starting line at the opposite end with masking tape.

**Activity Instructions**

In this relay, kids will run to the scarves or fabric pieces, use them as directed, put them back on the chairs, and run back to their teams.

Lydia was a businesswoman. It was unusual for women to have their own businesses at that time. Lydia sold beautiful purple material to rich and famous people. She later used her talents to share the good news about Jesus. Before you can sell something, you need to show it off. Today we’ll have a relay “showing off” purple material.

1. Divide kids into teams and ask them to stand behind the starting line.

2. When you say, “go,” the first kid in each line will run to the fabric, put it on to show it off, put it back on the chair, run back to his or her team, and tag the next person in line to become the new runner.

3. Demonstrate the action kids will do with the fabric, and start the game.

**Optional challenges**

- Have kids do a 360° spin (or action of your choice) before removing the cloth and running back.
- Skip or hop from the starting line to the fabric.
- Become a fabric salesperson. When you put the fabric over your shoulders, name one reason people should buy this purple cloth from Lydia.

Lydia’s material wrapped a lot of people. She was a leader in business. Then Lydia was wrapped in Jesus’ love. She became a leader in the early church. Her home became a spiritual center. And she told many people about Jesus.

**Send (5 minutes)**

**Wrap Up**

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven’t already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Ask kids to look at the drawings they made. Do they look exactly the same? Why? Even when we are in the same room, we all have different experiences and imagine different things. If someone asked each of you what you did today, your answers wouldn’t be exactly the same. But we all talked about the same thing—how Lydia told other people the good news that God’s love is for everyone. You can tell the news to other people, too!
Gracious God,
Thank you for loving all of us. Help us show your love to others by our words and our actions. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.