

DEVOTION #1

The Conversion of Lydia

THINK

- How do you share good news with the people around you? How do you make sure different people still get to hear it?

READ

ACTS 16:11-15

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 baptised, 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.

REFLECT

- What do we find out about the city of Philippi?
- Why is Paul in Philippi?
- How does Paul seek to share his message (the gospel) with people in Philippi?
- What do we find out about Lydia? How does she respond?
- Why would Paul want to share the message of Jesus with people? Why would we want to?

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for Paul and all of the early Christians who spent their lives sharing the message of Jesus' love. Thank you that their faith has made it possible for us to know God's love today. I ask that You will give me courage and faith so that, like Paul, I can share Your love with those around me. **Amen!**