

# Explore It FOR LEADERS



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## WE SAT DOWN AND TALKED TO THEM

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### Acts 16:6-15 Lydia becomes a Christian in Philippi

How often do you sit down and talk with others about your faith in Jesus? Or share your questions about Jesus? As we began this series we talked about how God moves in the big and loud ways, but that God also moves in the small quiet ways. We need to be open to and willing for however God comes near to us. God moves through different people in this story. We see those who follow immediately, those who hear and respond, and we hear of those who are still waiting to hear. Where has God placed you and are you obedient to his will in your life?

You will need:

→ a map of Paul's journey (optional) – see Tell It section

## Start It

Play a game of Memory. Ask all the children to look carefully at everything they can see on their screen. Ask one young person to close their eyes and then get members of the group to ask them questions about what they could see.

For example:

- Where is the clock on ... wall?
- What colour is ... jumper?
- Who is in the photo with ...?

When they get a question wrong, move on to a new player. Questions will get more detailed as players become more aware of their surroundings. You may also wish to ask the children to move themselves and their screen to a new position.

**Ask:** Are you good at noticing what is going on around you?

● **Say:** For example, when you go for a walk, do you spot birds flying? The colourful plants? The changes in your local area?

**Ask:** When you are with a friend or family member, do you notice how they are feeling? When you are watching a TV programme or play a game, do you spot all that is happening or hear all the background noises?

Ask children to go and look out of their window for 30 seconds and to come back and share all that they saw.

● **Say:** So much happens all around us that we can miss the moments, opportunities and people God places in our lives. In our story today, we discover how Paul and those who listened didn't miss these things.

## Sing It

This catchy dance song reminds us that we're here to spread the love God to everyone.

'Let's get a little crazy' by Lifetree Kids (3 mins 17 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnMo6OE1s5o>

## Tell It

● **Say:** During the last couple of months we have been exploring different parts of Paul's story.

**Ask:** What can you remember about Paul's journey as a follower of Jesus?

● **Say:** After his conversion, Paul devoted his time to spreading the good news of Jesus with all those he could. He travelled to many different places. (If you have time you could use a map to look at some of the different places Paul travelled to.)

## Video

Watch the video *Lydia is baptized* by Share Faith Kids (2 mins 42 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9ug15MydPU>

## Discuss

- At the beginning of the video, Paul was told not to go to certain places to preach. I wonder why do you think that was?
- Paul had a vision where a man begs him to go to the country of Macedonia. I wonder how Paul knew it was a message from God? I wonder why Paul followed God's calling?
- Paul was looking for a place where people prayed, and God moved through him to transform Lydia. I wonder how Lydia knew God was talking to her?
- Are there people you know who do not want to hear about Jesus? Why do you think that is?
- How do you know when God is talking to you? Do you listen to what he is saying?
- Who are the people you know who have not heard about Jesus? How could you show them? How could you tell them?

● **Say:** How often do you sit down and talk with others about your faith in Jesus? Or share your questions about Jesus? As we began this series, we talked about how God moves in the big and loud ways, but that God also moves in the small quiet ways.

● **Say:** We need to be open to and willing for however God comes near to us. God moved through different people in this story. We see those who follow immediately, those who hear and respond, and we hear of those who are waiting to hear.

**Ask:** Where has God placed you, and are you obedient to his will in your life? Where can you demonstrate God's love, and who can you sit down and talk to about Jesus?

## Action It

**Ask:** How was Paul obedient to God? How was Lydia obedient to God?

● **Say:** There are stories in the Bible of people talking about God, about Jesus, about his love, but there also many stories which show God's love in action.

**Ask:** What stories can you think of which show God's love in action?

● **Say:** As followers of Jesus, we are instructed to tell others about him and also to demonstrate God's love through our actions.

**Ask:** What does obedience to God's will look like for you? Is it easy to do?

● **Say:** Here are some ideas of how we could demonstrate God's love to others.

### Screen share:

- including the person who is left out
- caring for the person who is hurt
- thanking your teacher for the lesson you enjoyed
- being a good friend and not letting your friends down
- offering to pray in a time of worship

- asking your school if they could support you to help a food bank, the homeless, or another cause
- taking the initiative in your home to help others in your family

**Ask:** What ideas could you add to this list?

🗨 **Say:** As we saw in our story, God reveals himself to people in different ways and may use you to show himself to others. Some people are obedient and respond to God's invitation while others do not. God reveals himself in moments of sadness and times of joy, when we need help and when we least expect it. I wonder in what ways God may work through you if you are obedient to him?

## Pray It

Dear God,

Help me to be strong and courageous, even when I find it hard. Help me to remember that you will take care of me and help me to be brave. Thank you for the opportunities to show and share your love in this world. AMEN.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.