

**St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
May 1, 2016—THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
PAUL SHARES THE GOOD NEWS WITH LYDIA**



Lydia the Seller of Purple

After Paul learned about Jesus he wanted to let everybody share in the love and joy that he found. So Paul traveled—he walked, he sailed in boats, and he might have ridden on a donkey or in a cart. When he traveled to Macedonia Paul met Lydia, who sold purple cloth. She believed in God and worshiped God, but she hadn't learned about Jesus yet. Lydia was so happy to learn about Jesus! She wanted to help Paul spread the word to everyone.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

LYDIA OF THYATIRA

Paul met Lydia when he and his friends traveled to Macedonia to spread the good news of Jesus. We know just a few details about Lydia—that she sold purple cloth, she worshiped God and when Paul told her about Jesus she wanted to help Paul and his friends. Purple cloth was very expensive, and was very difficult to make. The dye had to be gathered drop by drop from the veins of certain shellfish found only in this area of the Mediterranean. The little bit of juice was white while it was in the veins of the fish, but when it was exposed to the sun, the liquid changed into bright purple and red colors. It took thousands of seashells to make a yard or two of purple cloth. It took a lot of work to catch enough shellfish to dye even one garment. The cloth was a statement of status, power, and wealth in Roman times. Lydia was very probably a successful business woman in the thriving and prosperous city of Philippi. Lydia worshiped God and wanted to learn about Jesus and when she listened to Paul she was so happy. She wanted to help spread this good news, so she welcomed Paul and his friends into her home. Lydia reminds us that we are all called to listen and to share good news and love with everyone.

What stories do you have in your life and in your family that are important to tell? As a family, talk about these stories and how you can tell them. What did you learn from your grandmother? What stories do you want your children to remember? How can we remind each other of all of the wonderful stories in our past? Our great-grandparents could write down stories or tell them to you out loud—but with computers and other technology we have many more options. Talk about how your family can share, tell and remember your stories.

Choose the Correct Words:

Lydia sold purple [**cloth** or **cars**]. She loved God but had not been told about [**Jesus** or **catching fish**]. When Paul was talking about Jesus she [**listened eagerly** or **tuned him out completely.**] She invited Paul and his friends to [**stay at her house** or **leave town immediately.**].

Acts 16:9-15

Dinner Table Conversation:

Why did Paul want to tell other people about Jesus?

Would you walk 200 miles to talk to someone?

How can you tell people about something you believe in?

Have you ever wanted to tell someone something very important?