Lesson at a Glance

LYDIA

CHANGED LIVES
LESSON 3

LESSON TEXT

Acts 16:11-15; Ecclesiastes 2:11, 3:11

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain that, though she was a worshipper of God, Lydia still needed to understand more about God.
- The students will identify specific ways in which they need God in their own lives.
- The students will spend extra time in prayer to see more clearly their need for God.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For the teacher:

- beach ball or other segmented ball (soccer ball, basketball, or use tape to create your own segments on any ball)
- CD or tape player with music
- permanent markers
- masking tape
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of world
- extra Bibles
- 1 roll of clear adhesive paper
- colored pencils/markers
- 1 roll of magnetic tape
- scissors
- glue sticks
- blank address labels
- pen or marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

- Faithful Instruction
  - Teacher Focus
  - Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: Beach Ball Game
- Starting Up
  - Welcome and Singing
  - Opening Prayer
  - Victories
  - Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

- Story: "Is This As Good As It Gets?"
- Scripture Study
- Activity: Needing God Every Day

Getting It to Others

- Scripture Memory: Matthew 6:33
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

GENERATION Preteens

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GETTING READY

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing the lesson. Read and meditate on Acts 16:11-15 and Ecclesiastes 2:11 and 3:11. Are you aware of your need for God every day and in all circumstances? Think about what kinds of things keep you from seeing your need for God. How do you overcome these obstacles? Be ready to share some of these insights with your preteens, who need great direction in understanding their daily need for God.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is understanding the need for God in our lives. Focus your attention on listening to your students' conversations. Do their words reflect their independence and self-sufficiency, or are they truly thankful to have God's power in their lives? Be ready to challenge their thinking as the opportunities present themselves. This lesson provides a great opportunity to disciple your students in their reliance on God in every aspect of their lives.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

BEACH BALL GAME

This game will help to focus the students on all the areas of their lives in which they need God.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- beach ball or other segmented ball (soccer ball, basketball, or use tape to create your own segments on any ball)
- CD or tape player with music
- permanent markers
- masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students arrive, ask them to think of a way they need God in their lives. Have them write their answer on a segment of the ball. If you only have a few students, add some of your own ideas.
   NOTE: If ball is not disposable, have the students write their answers on masking tape and then attach the tape to a segment of the ball. And if you have a very large class, have students write anywhere on the ball.
2. After all the students have arrived, gather the students in a circle. Volley the ball (within the circle) to the music.
3. When the teacher stops the music, the student holding the ball will read aloud the answer closest to his or her right hand. Discuss as a group that aspect of how we need God.
4. Continue until all or most of the answers are read and discussed, or until you are ready to start your class.

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GETTING READY

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, etc. Pray that each student and teacher will constantly recognize his or her need for God, and that each will trust God to meet that need.

VICTORIES

Take the time to have the students share about the challenge they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Would anyone like to share something that they learned this week?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide, and the victories of our brothers and sisters on other continents can inspire and spur us on.

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

STORY

IS THIS AS GOOD AS IT GETS?

This is a story about a woman who finally "has it all" and yet is left with an empty feeling. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 it says that God puts eternity in the hearts of men. He puts the need in our hearts for a relationship with him; therefore, until that need is fulfilled, a person is left feeling an emptiness in life.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page A (the story) to the students.
2. Read the story to the students.
3. Ask the following questions:
   - *Would most people view Laurie's life as fulfilling?*
   - *Who was she serving in her life?*
   - *What do you think Laurie was missing in her life?*
   - *Why do you think that there are some people who have great wealth, talents or careers, who do not see a need for God in their lives? Who are these people relying on?*

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have the students take out their Bibles and turn to Acts 16:11-15. Select a volunteer to read the passage.

Distribute copies of Reproducible Page B and read for the students the synopsis of "Lydia: A Prominent Woman."

- *What are some of the things you admire about Lydia?*
- *How do you think Lydia's success helped her to be open?* (She could see that her success and prominence could only bring temporary fulfillment.)
- *Why are money, clothes, looks and talents only temporary fulfillment?*

Read Ecclesiastes 2:11.
- *Why do you think Solomon came to this conclusion?*
- *Is he telling us not to go after these things at all?*

Read verses 13 and 14 of Acts 16.
- *What do you see in Lydia that shows she knew that she needed God?* (humble / a good listener / prayerful / made time for God in her busy schedule / responded to the message)
- *Are there certain times in your life when you feel you need God more than at other times? When?*
- *What are some ways you have shown your need for God* (prayer / Bible study / open about sins and struggles / getting advice / putting God first)
- *What are the benefits of relying on God in every area of our lives?*

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

ACTIVITY

NEEDING GOD EVERY DAY

The students will make a wallet card and a magnetic bookmark, which will remind them of their need for God every day.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 roll of clear adhesive paper
- colored pencils/markers
- 1 roll of magnetic tape
- scissors
- glue sticks

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, one copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page C (wallet card/bookmark). The students may decorate or color the front and back of the wallet card and the bookmark in any fashion they wish.
2. Once the students have completed their sheets, they should cut out the pieces and glue the front of the wallet card to the back.
3. The teacher should then take the two-sided card, and cut enough adhesive to cover both sides. Have the students carefully apply the adhesive to the pieces, being sure not to wrinkle the paper or leave bubbles.
4. The students should then fold the bookmark over. Give each student two small (½") pieces of the magnetic tape. These should be applied directly across from each other inside the folded bookmark. The bookmark will now stay folded over a page. (See diagram on Reproducible Page C.)
5. Tell your students that they should keep the wallet card with them to remind them that wherever they are, they need God with them. The bookmark can be kept in their Bibles or their quiet-time books to remind them that the way they stay close to God is through his word.

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Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

Materials Used

For the teacher:
- blank address labels
- pen or marker

Reproducible Pages:
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Divide the words of Matthew 6:33 (19 words) into the number of students in class. (For example, if you have six students, each gets 3 to 4 words; 8 students = 2 to 3 words each and 10 students = 1 to 2 words each.
2. Write these words or groups of words in large letters on the blank labels to be stuck to the students' backs.

Instructions

1. Hand out copies of Reproducible Page D (Memory Verse) to each student and read aloud together.
2. As the students are practicing the verse, go around placing the prepared labels on the students' backs.
3. Give the students these instructions: *Mingle and try to memorize who has which words of our memory verse on their back. When you think you can put everyone in correct order without looking at their backs, raise your hand.*
4. After a few minutes, allow several students the opportunity to put the words (people) in the correct order.

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Have them share about the areas in which they must focus more on their need for God. Discuss areas in your own life in which you recognize your independence and lack of reliance on God. Remind your students that if we think that we do not need God in any area of our lives, we are relying on ourselves, our talents or on other people in that particular area.

Ask your students what things they can do to be more focused on their need for God. (Being humble, seeking advice, praying, putting God first, listening, etc.) The challenge for this week is for each student to show a deeper need for God in his or her life. This will be done by praying for five minutes each day about all the ways they need to rely on God. Praying can be done alone, with a partner or with their family. The students should share this goal with their parents, and ask for help and encouragement. During next week's class, the students will share how their realization of their need for God has grown during the week.

Conclusion

End the class with a prayer.

Weekly Challenge

Spend five minutes in prayer each day. You may pray alone, with a partner or with your family. Pray about all the ways you need God in your life. Ask God to help you to rely on him in all these areas. During next week's class, you will have the opportunity to share about how much you have grown in your reliance on God.

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Lesson at a Glance supplement

LYDIA

CHANGED LIVES
LESSON 3
(SUPPLEMENT)

LESSON TEXT

Acts 16:11-15, 2:44-47; Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain how Lydia's love for God was shown through her hospitality.
- The students will list three ways in which hospitality is important in God's kingdom.
- The students will work with their parents to plan a time of hospitality for a family in the neighborhood during the next week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- several dictionaries
- extra Bibles
- 3 sheets flip-chart paper
- masking tape
- magic marker

Reproducible Pages:
- Page E, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: Words of Warmth

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer and Review
- Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study

Activity: Mr. and Mrs. Hospitality

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Matthew 6:33

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

GENERATION NEXT
Preteens

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing the lesson. Read and meditate on Acts 16:11-15, 2:44-47; Romans 12:13 and 1 Peter 4:9-10. Think about how much God has blessed each of us in the kingdom, both spiritually and materially. His plan is that we share these blessings with others, both disciples and non-disciples, by practicing hospitality. When we share our homes and our lives with those around us, we are demonstrating God's love, and helping others around us to know him better.

TEACHER TIPS

In this lesson, the focus is on how Lydia's love for God was shown through her hospitality to his disciples. Consider the level of hospitality in your classroom. Are visitors met and greeted warmly? Are the students giving hugs as they arrive? Is it your goal that all your visitors will feel like family? Are you setting the tone for your class as fun, but still reverent and spiritually focused? Think about these things, and watch for ways to teach your students to show more of God's hospitality.

The activity portion of this lesson is set up to be a discussion time to teach your students about hospitality and manners. To lead this discussion, invite to your classroom a couple from your congregation who excel at being hospitable to both disciples and non-disciples. (We especially want the students to see that hospitality is not only the woman's responsibility; so the man should play a major role in this discussion.) This should be a couple with a great family and a home that is warm and inviting. Use the activity section to plan the discussion with your guest speakers.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

WORDS OF WARMTH

As they complete this anagram, the students will begin to focus on how hospitality fits into God's plan to win the world.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- several dictionaries
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:
- Page E, 1 copy for each student

PREPARATION

Complete a copy of the worksheet prior to class in order to give your students ideas if needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students arrive, give each a copy of Reproducible Page A (Words of Warmth) and a pen or pencil. The students should work individually to complete this activity.
2. The students are to complete the anagram by thinking of words related to the idea of hospitality, using each letter in the phrase "Practice Hospitality." For example, "P" can stand for "people," etc. The students may use Bibles and/or dictionaries to get ideas or help with spelling.
3. When everyone has completed the worksheet, have them share some of their words with the class.

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes for the students to be sharing their faith with their friends.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Matthew 6:33.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief, so that as many as possible can share.

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

(SUPPLEMENT)

SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:
- extra Bibles

Have the students turn to Acts 16:11-15 in their Bibles. Select a volunteer to read the passage. The focus of this lesson is on verses 14 and 15.
- *What do you think caused Lydia to respond to Paul's message that day? How do you think it changed her life?*
- *What did she do as part of her response?* (She and her family were baptized. / She invited Paul and the others to stay at her house.)
- *Why do you think she said, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house"?* (She understood God's love and wanted to extend it to the disciples.)

Select a volunteer to read Acts 2:44-47 aloud to the class. Hospitality was the standard in the early church. The disciples were one family who spent time together, worshipped together, and met each other's needs. It was this type of sacrifice that caused many other people to come to know God (v. 47).
- *What are some things that this passage tells us about the early church and its hospitality?*
- *Why is hospitality so important in God's kingdom?*
- *Why do you think the disciples were so giving and sacrificial?*
- *How did God bless them for their sacrifice and love?*

Select two more volunteers to read Romans 12:13 and 1 Peter 4:9-10. These two passages are God's commands to us to be hospitable. It is not an option to be giving and loving toward others.
- *In Romans 12:13 we are commanded to share with God's people in need. What are the different ways that we can do this?* (Help your students think of ideas beyond the basic ones, e.g. giving money, helping the poor, etc. Talk about spending time encouraging someone who is discouraged, praying with someone who is struggling spiritually, etc.)
- *"Practice" is defined as follows: "To make a habit or custom of," or "To put into effect; apply." Why does God expect us to make hospitality a habit? How long does a habit last?*
- *In 1 Peter 4:9-10, we are commanded to offer hospitality without grumbling. Have you ever complained when you were asked to spend time with someone, or when a friend or another family came to your house for a meal? Have you ever had a bad attitude when an overnight guest took your bed, and you had to sleep somewhere else? How does God feel about this? If we decide to love others, how would we respond in these situations?*
- *Peter also commands us to use whatever gifts we have been given to serve others. Does this mean we need large houses, gourmet food and expensive entertainment to practice hospitality? What does this part of the verse really mean?*
- *What are some ways you can help your family to practice hospitality? How can you personally be more hospitable?* (Allow time for some great discussion and the sharing of ideas.)

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

(SUPPLEMENT)

ACTIVITY

MR. AND MRS. HOSPITALITY

This discussion will help your students to learn from those in your ministry who excel in the grace of hospitality.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:
- pen or pencil
- sheet of paper

For the teacher:
- 3 sheets flip-chart paper
- masking tape
- magic marker

PREPARATION

1. Once you have invited your guest speakers, spend some time with them reviewing the guidelines in the next column for things they should cover in their discussion. Let them know of special needs that you would like them to address.
2. Before class begins, tape the sheets of flip chart paper to the wall for your speakers to write down ideas and suggestions of ways the preteens can be hospitable. You may wish to provide pencils and paper for your students to take notes, if they wish.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your speakers' discussion should include the following:
   a. A Brief Primer on Manners—what to do when people are visiting or when you are visiting someone
      - greetings—making guests feel special and welcome
      - setting the table (it would be a great idea to bring an actual place setting to show the students the correct way)
      - table manners (guests eat first, ask to be excused if you need to leave, elbows off the table, etc.)
      - great conversation, including "please" and "thank you"
      - saying goodbye

   b. Family Hospitality—have the speakers share the ways they like to practice hospitality. Talk about involving all the family members.
      - Remind the students that everyone shares the responsibility for being great hosts: mom, dad and kids.
      - Ask for ideas from the students about the things their families do.
      - Ask for suggestions for new ideas.

   c. Personal Hospitality—how the students can be hospitable outside the home.
      Talk about
      - spending time with students who may not have any friends.
      - having lunch with a new student.
      - looking for ways to meet the needs of their friends—e.g. help with homework, helping mow their lawn, etc.
2. End the lesson by getting a commitment from each student to plan, with their family, a time of hospitality with another family. Have the students brainstorm possible ideas for this time, then have them share the results next week. (Keep in mind, though, that because people's schedules fill up quickly, they may have to plan something that will happen in the future and not necessarily next week.)

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Getting It to Others

(Supplement)

Scripture Memory

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

The students shared about the areas in which they must focus more on their need for God. They discussed areas in their lives in which they recognized their independence and lack of reliance on God. They were reminded that if we think that we do not need God in any area of our lives, we are relying on ourselves, our talents or on other people in that particular area. They were asked what things they could do to be more focused on their need for God. (Being humble, seeking advice, praying, putting God first, listening, etc.)

The challenge for this week is for each student to show a deeper need for God in his or her life. This will be done by praying for five minutes each day about all the ways they need to rely on God. Praying can be done alone, with a partner or with their family. The students should share this goal with their parents, and ask for help and encouragement. During next week's class, the students will share how their need for God has grown during the week.

Conclusion

End the class with a prayer.

Weekly Challenge

Spend five minutes in prayer each day. You may pray alone, with a partner or with your family. Pray about all the ways you need God in your life. Ask God to help you to rely on him in all these areas. During next week's class, you will have the opportunity to share about how much you have grown in your reliance on God.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE A

IS THIS AS GOOD AS IT GETS?

There was a really cool girl named Laurie. She wrote songs, and became part of a band that played a lot of places in town. She became quite well known. In fact, a local television personality interviewed her and told the audience that Laurie would someday be a big star. "Remember, you saw her first on WBRT," he bragged.

Laurie had always made good grades, and all her teachers wanted her to go to college. But Laurie had other plans. She went on the road with her band, playing night after night in clubs around the nation.

Finally, the big break came. A record producer heard her sing, and signed her up on the spot. From there her career took off. She was on the cover of all the teen magazines. Everyone thought she was awesome. She was beautiful, smart, talented and quickly becoming very, very rich.

Within a short amount of time, she had achieved much success. She was having the time of her life! Everyone loved her and enjoyed being with her. She had great friends, great clothes and plenty of everything. She seemed so very happy!

Her life was a whirlwind of activity. East Coast, West Coast, downtown, uptown, in late, out early... She seemed to be living the abundant life she had envisioned as a child. Other young women envied her and everything she had and did.

Yet, in spite of all this, she would often lie awake at night and stare at the ceiling. Tears would roll from the corners of her eyes, wetting her pillowcase. She felt so lonely, so alone, so confused.

She would ask herself over and over, "Why am I here? What is my purpose? There must be more to life than this! Why am I not happy?"

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Reproducible Page B

Lydia: A Prominent Woman

Lydia was a prominent woman who lived in Thyatira, which was a Macedonian colony and a melting pot of many nations. Thyatira was known for its fabric dying industry because the water of that area was well suited for dying. Purple dye came from crushing the shells of tiny sea creatures. Hundreds of these shellfish were needed to make enough purple to dye one robe, so purple cloth was very expensive. No other place could produce the cloth from which fezzes (hats) were so brilliantly and permanently dyed. This unique purple dye brought the city universal renown. Lydia was a well-known seller of this cloth. She was a successful businesswoman in a prosperous city. We can know this was her life situation because of her independent position, spacious home and servants.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE C

I NEED GOD EVERY DAY!

_____
Name

wallet card front

School Church HOBBIES Sports PRETEEN ACTIVITY Character Family Relationships

wallet card back

bookmark back

fold

I NEED GOD EVERY DAY

bookmark front

fold

I NEED GOD EVERY DAY

bookmark inside back

bookmark front

2 magnets opposite each other

Core/Getting into God's Word/1 copy for each student

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE D

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

MATTHEW 6:33

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Spend five minutes in prayer each day. You may pray alone, with a partner or with your family. Pray about all the ways you need God in your life. Ask God to help you to rely on him in all these areas. During next week's class, you will have the opportunity to share about how much you have grown in your reliance on God.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE E

WORDS OF WARMTH

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the anagram by writing one word related to hospitality for each letter. You may use your Bible and/or a dictionary to help you with ideas or with spelling.

P _____

R _____

A _____

C _____

T _____

I _____

C _____

E _____

H _____

O _____

S _____

P _____

I _____

T _____

A _____

L _____

I _____

T _____

Y _____

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