



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

Courageous Christians: Lydia

God sees our potential *(taken from Acts chapter 16)*

God was truly at work in Saul's life. Everyone could see that knowing God had turned Saul's life upside-down and the Holy Spirit continued to give him courage and strength. Saul decided to change his name and asked everyone to call him 'Paul'. This new name means 'small' and Paul knew that it was God who was big and strong, not him. He knew that God had chosen him, even though he was weak and small.

One day, while Paul, Timothy and Silas (and Luke who was writing all this down) were travelling and telling everyone they met about Jesus, Paul had a dream. "I think God wants us to go to Macedonia," said Paul. "I think God is calling us to preach the Good News to the people there. Come on!"

After their boat ride they went inland to Philippi, a big city in Macedonia. They spent several days there, sharing stories with the new church and asking the Holy Spirit to come in power and help others believe.

On the Sunday, after church, Saul, Timothy and Silas went out of the hot, bustling city down to the riverside. "There is a lovely place where we can rest and pray," said Silas. "We need to rest and ask God's Holy Spirit to refresh us and show us what He wants us to do next."

At the prayer place, they sat down and talked to the women who gathered there. One of the people they met was Lydia, who was a dealer in purple cloth. She was a sensible and clever businesswoman and she was also a woman who loved and worshiped God. Paul noticed this about her straight away because of the way she was praying.

"Lydia, do you know Jesus of Nazareth and all he has done so you can know the Father and live the life He has for you?" asked Paul gently. God opened Lydia's mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying.



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

“Tell me more about this Jesus!” Lydia exclaimed. “I love the Lord God of Israel but I want to be courageous and strong for him!”

Paul, Silas and Timothy began to tell her all about Jesus and his death and the new life he offered because of Easter Day. Lydia’s heart leapt and her eyes lit up. “I want to be baptized!” she said. “Wait while I get my whole family! I must tell them so they too can give their lives to the Lord Jesus!”

After she and the people of her house had been baptized, she invited them all to share a meal. “Come! Let us celebrate and worship together! Come and stay in my house for I am now a true believer in the Lord.”