

LEARNING FOCUS 4: Witnesses to the Easter Message: Lydia.

Remember Paul used to be called Saul. He had witnessed the death of Stephen before his conversion to Jesus Christ while he was on the road to Damascus. Timothy was one of the people who accompanied Paul on some of his journeys. He was the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He became a companion and assistant to Paul in his missionary work.

In one of Paul's many journeys, he met Lydia, who was a successful trader involved in the business of purple cloth, the imperial colour of Rome, worn only by the emperor and those of rank and authority. Lydia was a successful business woman. She would have been well known in the city. She listened carefully to Paul as he preached the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. She invited Paul and his companions, including Timothy, to stay at her home.

PAUL, LUKE AND TIMOTHY MEET LYDIA (based on Acts 16:11-15)

We took a ship from Troas and sailed to Samothrace. The next day we went on to Neapolis and from there sailed inland to Philippi. It is a **Roman colony** and the most important city in Macedonia. We spent a few days here. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gates to a place by the river where the Jews gathered to pray. We sat down and talked to the women who had come there. One of them was called Lydia. She was from Thyatira and was in the business of dying and selling **purple cloth**. She loved and worshipped God and listened carefully to us. God opened her mind and heart to believe what Paul said. After she and all the people who lived in her house had been baptised, she invited us to stay with them.



The friends of Jesus preached the good news in the market place or wherever people gathered.

a Roman colony

Paul was a Roman citizen and could travel freely all over the Roman Empire, which, at that time, included Greece and Egypt.

purple cloth

Purple cloth was fashionable so Lydia was probably a successful trader and may have been well known in the city.

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This piece of scripture is written from the point of view of Paul, Luke and Timothy. Your task is to write about the meeting from the point of view of Lydia. Think about how Lydia may have felt when she met Paul, Luke and Timothy. The questions she may have had for them and what their answers may have been. Think about how being baptised may have made her feel.

