



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 19:
"Whaddya Mean She's Not a Christian?"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 16:11-15 and selected passages

1. When visiting a new city, where did Paul usually go first (Acts 16:13)? What does this tell us about the number of Jews in this "Roman colony?" How did Paul and his team model evangelism for us in this passage (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)?

2. What do we learn about Lydia, a Gentile, who met with a few Jews down by the river instead of with the masses of her countrymen at the pagan temples in town? Given that purple was the color associated with wealth, what sort of lifestyle did Lydia live?

3. Do you know of any modern-day "Lydia's" – people who worship "God," but yet still don't know the gospel? Why isn't belief in or even the worship of "God" enough to forgive one's sins (Romans 1:18-20)?

4. What happened to Lydia in Acts 16:14 when she heard the gospel that Paul was proclaiming? Who opened her heart to this truth (see Ephesians 2:1-5, 8-9)? How important are our prayers to our Father on behalf of those who don't know Christ?

5. How did Lydia respond to her newfound conversion (*Acts 16:15*)? Paul traditionally refused to take money or lodging from the people he was just meeting on the mission field (*2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:14*). Why then did he receive her hospitality?

6. Is Christianity too "exclusive" (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 5:2*)? Have you ever met any "universalists" who claim there are many ways to heaven? What is your response to them? What is the difference between "universalism" and "inclusivism"?

7. Even though God is the one who "opens hearts" to the gospel, we still have a responsibility to share the message of salvation. How can you more intentionally share the specific truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the "Lydia's" in your life?

Memory Verse:

"One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."

(Acts 16:14, NIV)