

Words of Acts for Mother's Day

Lydia's Open Heart and Home

“A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

She Opened Her Heart to the Gospel

- Paul leads his second missionary tour (15:36-18:22).
- Philippi was a significant Roman colony.
- He meets a distinguished lady named Lydia (14a):
 - She was a native of *Thyatira* of Asia Minor (Turkey).
 - She was a merchant, a seller of *purple* fabrics.
 - She is the *leader* of her own household.
 - She was a “*God-fearer*,” as was the case with Cornelius.
 - She *listens* intently as Paul teaches her about Jesus.

She Obeyed the Gospel

- *“The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul” (14b):*
 - As she listened, she came to *believe* in Jesus as the Christ.
 - She *repented* of her sins and *confessed* her faith in Jesus.
- *“And when she and her household had been baptized . . .” (15a).*
- Lydia became the first convert to the Lord in Europe.

She Opened Her Home to the Gospel

- *“She urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.’ And she prevailed upon us” (15b).*
- Lydia demonstrated her faith by her *hospitality*, an open, obedient heart with an open home for Paul and his team for as long as they stayed.
- Lydia’s home became the meeting place for the first congregation, *Philippi*, in Europe, that Paul would call *“my joy and my crown” (Philippians 4:1).*

*“They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed”
(Acts 16:40).*