

# Lydia is thankful for God's church

## Acts 16:14-15

### Introduction

Show the children the page in the Bible where it says 'Old Testament'.

In the Old Testament there are lots of stories about God.

Show them the page where it says 'New Testament'. In the New Testament we find stories about Jesus – what he did and what he said, about his death and resurrection.

There are also stories about people who wanted to follow Jesus, and letters that were written to them. Show the page which says 'Letter to the Philippians'. One of the letters was written for the people in Philippi, the Philippians.

We're now going to listen to story from the New Testament about Philippi.

It's the Sabbath, the rest day for the Jewish people.

There is a group of people standing by the river in Philippi. They are all women. They have come together to pray. They believe in the Lord God and love him a lot. One of the women is called Lydia. She is a very rich woman. She sells beautiful red and purple material that you can use to make wonderful clothes.

A bit later a few men come walking up to the women and sit on the ground next to them.

The women are surprised. They don't know who they are. What are they doing here?

One of the men says 'I am Paul'. We thought that you were praying. We also love the Lord God and also his son Jesus. He is the saviour, the Messiah."

The women are even more surprised. Do these men know who the saviour is? The Messiah? Then Paul starts to talk...

He talks about Jesus, how he died on the cross to get rid of all the bad things people do, and to forgive them. He tells that Jesus was buried, but that he rose again after three days, and that he is alive. He tells them that Jesus is now in heaven, and that everyone who believes in him can belong to him.

When Lydia hears this, she want to belong to Jesus too.

It makes Paul happy when he thinks about Lydia and the others.

He writes "I'm happy every time I pray for you. I am happy that you believe in the Lord Jesus, and that you tell other people about the Lord Jesus. It's such a good thing that the church is there in Philippi. When I pray for you I always say thank you to the Lord God. Thank you for the dear people in Philippi. The Lord God loves you. Keep on loving him and loving each other. The Lord Jesus will always take care of you. Greetings from Paul. "

Paul smiles. Thank you Lord God for the people in Philippi.

Show the children the letter to the Philippians once more. Tell them that the letter that Paul wrote to the people in Philippi is in the Bible. This means that we can read what it says time and time again. We are also a part of the church, and we can thank God for that.