

THE MCBC | Week of October 12th-18th

the **MCBC**

Real People: Stories of Faith and Failure



Go to [https://youtu.be/kHbwzlg- 8A](https://youtu.be/kHbwzlg-8A) to view

Small Group Discussion Questions

Lydia: Responding to God's Call

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:1-40

1. What is one point of Sunday's message that stood out to you? Take a moment to share.
2. In Acts 16:14 there is this statement "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message" (Acts 16:14). What was the work that God performed in her heart?
3. What have you learned in Scripture about how God calls people to believe in Jesus? What steps had to happen for Lydia to hear and receive the gospel message from Paul (Acts 16:6-15)? Ask one or two group members to share how God opened their heart to the gospel message (3-5 minutes max)
4. Lydia's meeting with Paul took place when she was doing her job (Acts 16:13-14). Have you ever experienced God breaking into your regular work routine? Have there been any moments you can recall where God clearly used you at your workplace to minister?
5. One of the callings on Lydia's life was to provide hospitality. She not only hosted Paul in her home but also brothers and sisters (Acts 26:40). What role did believer's homes play in the spreading of the gospel? Are we mandated to use our homes in the same way today? How critical was hospitality in those days? Share any stories where you have used your home to reach out to your neighbors or hosted missionaries. (Read Acts 5:42; 12:12-17, Romans. 16:5)

Optional Questions:

1. Lydia was able to provide for Paul out of what she had earned at her workplace. In what ways did Lydia take a risk by providing for Paul? Discuss the implications both good and bad of Lydia's decision. Are we
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willing to risk in the same ways (Acts 16:16-40)?

2. What is one characteristic that we see in Acts 16 when believers join together (Acts 16:40)? What are some other benefits the Bible says happens when we meet with other believers to worship God (Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 13:16)? In what practical ways, individually and corporately, can each Christian and group of Christians be obedient to this instruction during this period of time?
 3. We see clearly God's guidance for Paul's trip to Macedonia as illustrated in Acts 16:7-13. How has God guided you in your life?
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Prayer:

1. Pray that God would use each one of us in our places of work. Name one co-worker that you can pray for as a group.
 2. Pray that we would be generous with our resources.
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Challenge:

Think of one way you can show hospitality to either another believer or a co-worker this week.
