

LYDIA

My name is Lydia, I'm actually not originally from Philippi, but it's my home town for the moment. I sell purple cloth, it's gorgeous stuff and quite expensive, anyone want to buy some? I was the first person to become a Christian in my town. You can read all about it in Acts 16 in the Bible.

SLAVE GIRL

Hi I'm a slave girl. You can read about my story too in Acts chapter 16 in the Bible. I used to make money fortune telling. Life was very messy and I was overpowered by an evil spirit. One day Paul was in town and he commanded the spirit to leave me alone in the name of Jesus. And I was free. No more evil spirit. But then things got tricky. My owners didn't like it and Paul and Silas got beaten up and put in prison.

JAILER

Hi, I work for the prison. One night I had these 2 Christian lads in the cell. Paul and Silas. Even though they had injuries all over them they were singing Christian worship songs. I couldn't believe it. Then God sent an earthquake and the prisoners were free. Oh no.....I was done for. I pulled out my sword there and then. But Paul shouted, "don't harm yourself, we're all here". I was so overcome, I asked "what can I do to be saved", and they said "believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household". So I did, and we all got baptised! And now we're all part of the church that meets in Lydia's home.

EUODIA & SYNTYCHE

Hi I'm Euodia, I'm a retired missionary. Hi I'm sin-te-kee, I used to work with Paul. I find her really difficult. I find her really difficult. She's so annoying. She's always right all the time. But she's my sister, and I love her. I need God's help to love her, it's not easy, but when I remember Jesus loves us both so much, it helps us to get on better and better.

CCH 05OCT25 Philippians 1:1-11 "Gospel Partnership"

- READING 1 _____ (v1-2) **Come to front.** PRAY!
- Look at 3 sections. PEOPLE/ PRAISE/ PRAYER.
- Anyone have a favourite cartoon?
- One of mine growing up was the Flintstones
 - o *"Flintstones, meet the Flintstones"*
 - o *They're the modern stone-age family*
 - o *From the town of Bedrock*
 - o *They're a page right out of history"*
 - Fred, Wilma, Pebbles etc.
- Well I'd like you to "meet the Philippians".
 - o Also a family, a local church family like us.
 - o But from nearly 2000 years ago!
 - Not quite stone age, but Bible age!
- And here's where they lived.
 - o In a really Roman town called Philippi. (N Greece)
- Do you want to meet some of them? "Meet the Philippians".
- Let's meet 5 of the first ever believers in "Europe!"
 - o First there was LYDIA- testimony
 - o There was THE SLAVE GIRL- testimony
 - o Then THE JAILER- testimony
 - o Then EUODIA & SYNTYCHE- testimony
- So there's the people. PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS
 - o And in many ways they are a bit like us.
 - o Lots of backgrounds. Rich/Poor/diff countries origin
 - o Many of us believe the good news of Jesus.
- And they were sent a letter from PAUL (& TIMOTHY).
 - o He'd been to see them a couple of times, but now he's back in prison probably in Rome, and he writes to them.
 - o V1-2
- It's a wonderful message he writes- super encouraging & positive.
- V2 A message of grace (God's kindness) and peace (God's acceptance).
 - o But rem it's a messg from God, so need to listen & obey.
- And I hope if you bel good news, super enc.
- And even if you're not sure what the good news re Jesus is, helpful.
- Next moves to praise. Let's praise God now in Song:
- ALL PRAISE TO HIM who humbly came to bear our sorrow, sin & shame.

2) PRAISE:

- Next Paul gives thanks, he praises God! V3-6
 - o Beth memorised these putting them to Taylor Swift Clean!
 - o Does anyone know what partnership is?
 - o 'Working together to get the job done'. Bob the Builder.
- Business partnership. Sporting partnership. Church Partnership.
 - o He's thankful to God for his wonderful Phil bro & sis.
 - o They took care of him when he was there.
 - o They sent him money- he'll thank them for that in ch4.
 - o They've joined in in sharing good news, and church growing.
 - o WHO SHARE IN THE GOOD NEWS
- But he isn't just thanking them.
 - o He's thanking God, because it was God who started work
 - o And it's God who will finish the work!
- Repeat after me- such an encouraging verse personally.
 - o "I'm confident of this very thing!
 - o That he, who has begun, a good work, in you,
 - o He will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ".
 - He's never going to let you down
 - He's never going to let you stay still!
 - God's never going to let you go
 - o And Paul really loves the Philippians, and says so v7-8.
- I'm really thankful to God for all of you.
- I'm thankful for your partnership.
- Turn to the person next to you and share what you do in church.
Q How do you/can you help out at church?
(round of applause for Ade!)
- Adults, teens, even kids how do you try to help others in GSMA/TROGs.
Listen to teachers, be kind to other children,
- We can call this "teamwork makes the dreamwork"!
- Well met the people, seen Paul praise God for them.

Q What does he do next?

PRAYS For them. Brilliant- you can talk to Jesus.

SONG: PRAYER IS LIKE A TELEPHONE.

So far- met people 1), seen Paul give thanks 2) prays. 3)

3) PRAYER- what does he pray for?

- V9-11
- Quite a long prayer, but praying THEY GROW EVEN DEEPER INTO THE GOOD NEWS.
- Great in my job to be set aside for ministry of prayer and word, so this week, preparing this sermon AND praying it for you all.
- I'm praying that we all grow
 - o When an acorn is planted in soil does it stay small?
 - o When a person is born do they stay small?
- Paul prays they grow, as the good news about Jesus grows in their heart.
 - o 2 areas
 - In love
 - So they really love their fellow Christians
 - In understanding
 - So they see how important the good news is
 - Must have been hard living in a city with lot of Roman thinking. They believed loads of Gods. They believed anything goes morally.
 - o And it's easy to keep going in that environment.
 - But if we grasp that Jesus is God
 - That one day everyone in Huntingdon (like in Phil) will bow
 - in our understanding
 - o And it will work out in our lives.
 - V10, v11.
- It's going to be wonderful to read this book together so positive
 - o So full of joy, full of Jesus, full of the gospel.
- It's going to help those of us who believe, already partner
 - o Lydia when tough. Jailer when want to go back.
 - o To grow more deeply, love even when hard (Euod/Synth).
 - o Wonderful spiral of joy, growth and praise to God.
 - o Let's pray.