

Being Hospitable to All People

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (Acts 16:15)



Randall and Sakari were selected to represent their school at the Youth Leadership Conference that is sponsored by community leaders in their city. In the past, their school did participate in this conference. This year, the new principal wanted to take advantage of community events and activities that would expose her students to a wider range of learning opportunities. To attend the conference, student leaders had to be in their junior or senior year of high school, hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and be nominated by three teachers. Randall and Sakari were honored to be the students selected to attend the conference.

Before the conference, Randall and Sakari met with the principal to go over the conference schedule.

Principal Reeves said, "I am proud of you two. I have never attended this conference, but from what I understand, most students who attend are not black or brown students. So, your participation is important. This will be an awesome opportunity, and you are qualified to be there."

After Randall and Sakari arrived at the conference, they remembered their principal's words. They were the only African-American students in the group. Randall and Sakari sat at a table with three other students. As soon as they did, the three students stood up and moved to another table.

"Dang, did we do something wrong?" Sakari asked.

Randall replied, "No. Why they got up has nothing to do with us. That is their problem."

One of the conference leaders was watching the incident and walked over to Randall and Sakari. The leader said, "Hi! My name is Chad. We are so glad you two are here. Let me introduce you to some other students." The leader connected Randall and Sakari with students who were welcoming and fun to be around. Thanks to the conference leader, Randall and Sakari relaxed and looked forward to all they would learn to become effective leaders.

LESSON

13

Background Scriptures:

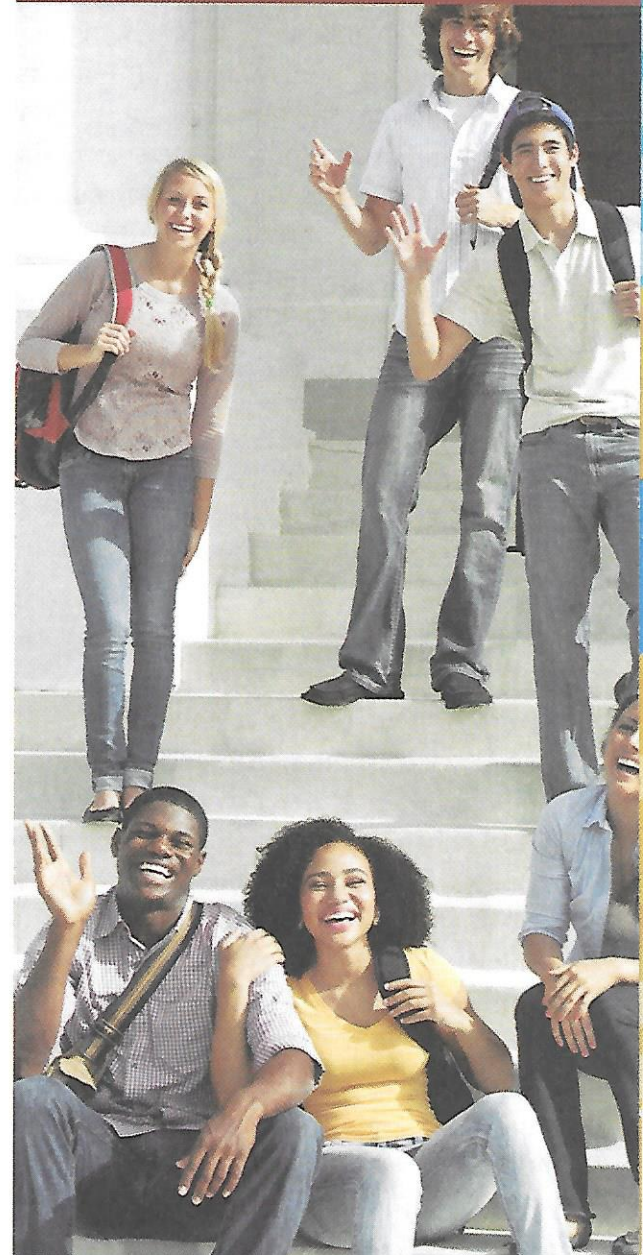
Acts 16:11-15, 40;

I Corinthians 1:26-30

Print Passages:

Acts 16:11-15, 40;

I Corinthians 1:26-30





Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. **12** From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. **13** On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. **14** One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. **15** When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

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40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

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26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28** God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **29** so that no one may boast before him. **30** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

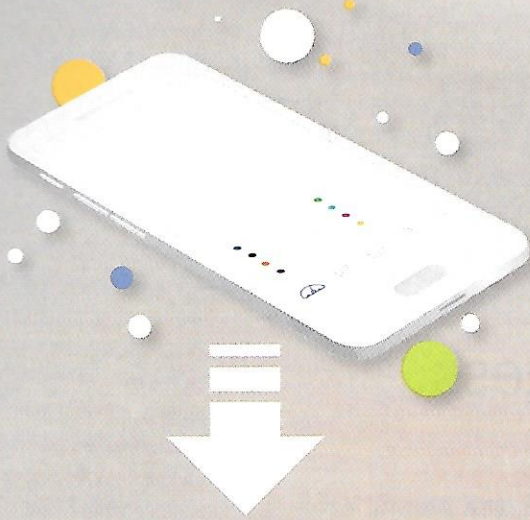
Intersect

Today's lesson focuses on Lydia, another woman who was an avid supporter of Paul's ministry. Lydia came from a place called Thyatira, which was well-known for its textile industry, especially purple dyes. By profession, Lydia was a dealer of purple cloth. During ancient times, the buyers of purple cloth were usually rich and royal people in the Roman world. As a seller of purple cloth, Lydia was connected to some of the most prestigious and wealthy people in the land. Lydia was both a businesswoman and a homeowner, which was extremely rare in the days of the early church.

Paul met Lydia during his mission trip to Philippi, which was an area near eastern Macedonia. After being in Philippi for several days, Paul wanted to find a place in which to pray and worship. There was no synagogue in the town, so he went down to the river where the God-fearing women were gathered. As Paul was speaking to the women, Lydia was listening. Lydia was already a believer and a worshiper of God. When she heard Paul's message about Jesus Christ, the Lord opened her heart to receive it and she was converted. Lydia and the others in her household were baptized, making a public confession of their new life in Jesus Christ. After being converted, Lydia was moved to connect with Paul and others of the faith. She opened her home to Paul and others in his ministry and convinced them to stay while they ministered in Philippi.

• Inside Out

Lydia believed in God, but she did not know about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Paul ministered to Lydia and others who had gathered at the river, their spirits agreed. Paul did not have to convince Lydia about the ways of Jesus because her spirit was already primed to receive the Good News message due to her devotion to God. This story reminds believers that our job is to simply share the message of Jesus with others and allow Him to bring the increase according to His divine plan.

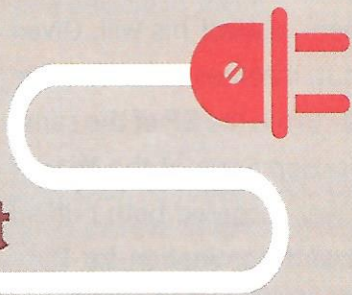


There's an App for That!

Youth often believe that sharing the Gospel is only a requirement for adults. God desires for youth to surrender their lives to Him at an early age, so they have many years to help Him build the kingdom. Today, so many youths do not have a relationship with Jesus. Just think about how many young souls could be won for Christ if young believers opened their mouths and shared the Good News with their friends, neighbors, and youth in the community. Never underestimate your level of influence. Say “yes” to God and allow Him to empower you to serve your generation.

Connect

Lydia responded to the Gospel message with hospitality. God positioned Lydia to help those in need by providing her with a house, wealth, and a kind spirit. Lydia easily extended blessings to others because of the blessings on her life. Thank God for the blessings you receive, and in appreciation for those blessings, look for opportunities to bless someone else.



Stepping Out!

Today, we learned that Lydia was a seller of purple cloth. The cloth she sold was viewed as being very expensive. This week, you are challenged to research the significance of the color *purple* during Bible times. In your research, also investigate the ancient process for dyeing purple cloth. Save interesting facts that you learn about the color *purple*, and plan to share your findings with the class next week.

Media Mission

Those with careers in hospitality specialize in taking care of the needs of others. Visit <https://www.hcareers.com> to investigate a wide range of hospitality jobs. Many high school students work in hospitality to gain work experience and earn money for college or vocational school; some turn it into successful careers. Peruse the site and flag/save jobs you want to learn more about.



Music Review

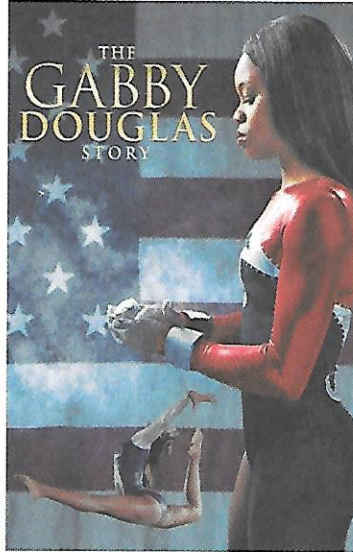
Kevin Elijah Burgess

“Strong Name”



Three studio releases in, and Kevin Elijah Burgess (better known by his stage name KB) is at his creative zenith. For years, the Tampa native has been something of an outlier in hip-hop, firmly placing a thumbprint on the game while invoking the power of spiritual conviction. His lyricism is impassioned and astute, and he will not be bent against his will. Given his commanding presence and consistent output, it comes as no surprise that the world has taken notice. The track “100” (from the EP of the same name) took home the Dove Award for Rap/Hip-Hop Song of the Year in 2014. And his last LP, 2015’s *Tomorrow We Live*, garnered both critical and commercial acclaim, earning a Stellar Award nomination for Rap/Hip-Hop Gospel CD of the Year, debuting on the Billboard charts as the No. 1 Christian Album and the No. 4 Rap Album overall. His 2017 release of *Today We Rebel* is his third full-length album with Reach Records.

Movie Review



The Gabby Douglas Story

The Gabby Douglas Story is based on the life of gold-medal Olympian Gabby Douglas. At the 2012 London Summer Olympics, seventeen-year-old Gabby Douglas won the gold medal for the gymnastics individual all-around, and then another gold medal with her “Fierce-Five” American teammates for the team all-around. The movie chronicles the young athlete’s meteoric rise, thanks to her natural talent, good coaching, and the sacrificing of her family. It is a heartwarming story that revolves around the family’s struggles with money, illness, and, briefly, even homelessness. Gabby’s determination to succeed in gymnastics was matched by her mother and siblings’ understanding of her talent to the point of sacrificing their own desires to support hers. Many important themes are explored in this movie, such as determination, resilience, perseverance, sacrificial love, and encouragement. Gabby’s mother, Natalie Hawkins, is played with depth and compassion by actress Regina King. Gabby is played at different ages by actresses Sydney Mikayla and Imani Hakim.

Gabby Douglas is a proven top competitor in the gymnastics world. Before and after the making of this movie, Gabby had/has won numerous medals and awards and continues to inspire gymnasts around the world.

“You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it’s important for you to understand that your experience facing and overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages.”

—Michelle Obama

