



LESSON SIX: RESPONDING TO THE TRUTH

*Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH
November 4, 2018*

RELATING TO THE WORLD'S STORY

- 1) With election day two days away, what methods do you see candidates using in trying to persuade voters to believe their message and vote for them (whether you agree with the candidate or not)?

LEARNING FROM LYDIA'S STORY

- 2) "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message" (Acts 16:14). Why is this statement so significant for you to understand...about yourself...about others?
- 3) Compare Acts 16:14 with the passages below. What conclusions can we draw about the power of sharing Scripture with others?

 Luke 24:25-27,32,44-45

 Romans 1:16-17

 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Lydia’s faith influenced her network of people. Paul wrote, “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Lydia knew the value of the cloth she sold. Purple was the cloth of wealth and royalty. (See Mark 15:17-18.) Paul’s message about Jesus led Lydia to be baptized along with the members of her household—clothed with the more valuable righteousness of Christ and identified with his royal dignity and honor.

4) Read and explain how being clothed with Christ makes you look in God’s eyes.

 Isaiah 61:1-3,10

 Romans 6:3-13

 Ephesians 5:25-27

 Revelation 7:13-14

Want to learn more?

God accepts people from all races and nations on the basis of their faith in Jesus

Acts 15:5-11, 19
Romans 4:4-16
Galatians 3:6-14
Titus 3:3-8

Want to learn more?

Clothing for holy living

Psalms 51:7-10
Titus 2:11-12
Ephesians 2:8-10
Ephesians 4:21-31

5) Discuss how might use the biblical picture of being clothed with Christ in sharing your faith.

Paul said, God “saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace” (2 Timothy 1:9). One of Paul’s team was Silas. He was sent to tell Gentiles they are free to serve God without the burdens of the Jewish law. They still should show respect for those who cherish it. (See Acts 15:9-11, 22-29.) Living a holy life exhibits our faith relationship with God and our clothing in Christ. Lydia’s response of faith was extending hospitality to Paul and the mission team at her house. It also may have become the location for the house church that developed in Philippi—her expression of thanks for what God had done for her. (See Acts 16:40.)

Motivation from Isaiah

Isaiah 32:1-5, 16-17
Isaiah 51:1-8
Isaiah 56:1-8

MAKING IT YOUR STORY

- 6) Lydia's household was also baptized. What does it tell you about the value of the home in reaching out to others? Point out where you see its effect. (See 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17.)
- 7) Lydia persuaded Paul and his companions to stay at her house and supported them in their mission work while they were in Philippi (and perhaps after that – cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2). This would have given very visible evidence of her faith. What impact might this have had on those who saw it? What can we learn from her example for our own witnessing?

THIS WEEK:

- *Learn this Bible Story to share: **Abraham and the Blessing for All Nations** (Genesis 12-21).*
- *Mormonism emphasizes a life of perfection. Study how Truth in Love Ministries (tilm.org) shares the gospel with them. Or study Islam and living by laws. Consider how you might understand their viewpoints and discuss Jesus with them.*

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