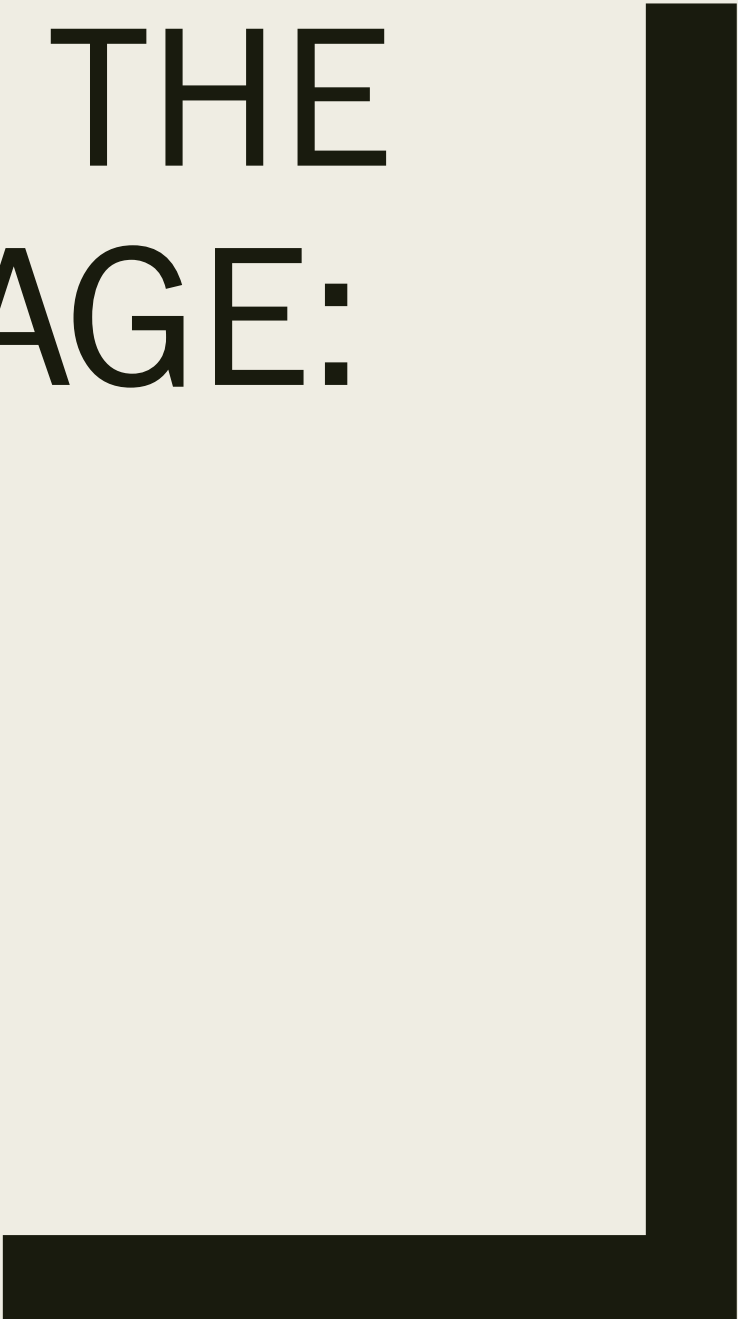


WITNESSES TO THE
EASTER MESSAGE:
LYDIA.



Remember Paul used to be called Saul.

He had witnessed the death of Stephen before his conversion to Jesus Christ while he was on the road to Damascus.

Timothy was one of the people who accompanied Paul on some of his journeys.

He was the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He became a companion and assistant to Paul in his missionary work.



In one of Paul's many journeys, he met Lydia, who was a successful trader involved in the business of purple cloth, the imperial colour of Rome, worn only by the emperor and those of rank and authority.



PAUL, LUKE AND TIMOTHY MEET LYDIA (based on Acts 16:11-15)

We took a ship from Troas and sailed to Samothrace. The next day we went on to Neapolis and from there sailed inland to Philippi. It is a **Roman colony** and the most important city in Macedonia. We spent a few days here. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gates to a place by the river where the Jews gathered to pray. We sat down and talked to the women who had come there. One of them was called Lydia. She was from Thyatira and was in the business of dying and selling **purple cloth**. She loved and worshipped God and listened carefully to us. God opened her mind and heart to believe what Paul said. After she and all the people who lived in her house had been baptised, she invited us to stay with them.



a Roman colony

Paul was a Roman citizen and could travel freely all over the Roman Empire, which, at that time, included Greece and Egypt.

purple cloth

Purple cloth was fashionable so Lydia was probably a successful trader and may have been well known in the city.

The friends of Jesus preached the good news in the market place or wherever people gathered.

Lydia was a successful business woman. She would have been well known in the city. She listened carefully to Paul as he preached the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. She invited Paul and his companions, including Timothy, to stay at her home.



We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

We remained in this city for some days.

On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth.

The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.

When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

**Based on Acts 16: 11-15
Come & See**

In Acts 16:40, it is mentioned that on their release from prison Lydia welcomed Paul and Silas as well. She was a woman proud to be associated with the name of Christ.

Like Paul himself, she witnessed to her faith in Christ, even though it might have been a risk to her business.

She put her faith before all else.



- Why do you think the women were meeting outside the city for a time of prayer?
- What do you think appealed to Lydia in Paul's preaching?

- What do you think is meant by the phrase ‘the Lord opened her heart’?
- How did Lydia respond?
- Why is it important that Paul and Timothy spoke to women as well as men?

- Why do you think Lydia invited Paul and his companions to her house?
- What do you think were the risks that Lydia took in witnessing to her faith in Christ?

Task

- Imagine you are Lydia. Explain how you felt, listening to the words of Paul and how it affected your life.
- Write about how you think following Jesus affected Lydia's life and what possible risks it might have brought to her business dealings with the Romans. Record and share the discussion.
- How do you think that Lydia's example reflects on the life of women today?