

# Making Space for All God's Children



Jay and his friends watched the new guy look around for someplace to sit during lunch.

"I hope he doesn't come over here," Mark said.

"I know," agreed another one of Jay's friends. "Let's spread out so it looks like there's no more room. He looks weird."

"He's not," Jay spoke up. "We had to work together earlier today in math. He's actually pretty cool." When Jay finished talking, he looked up and saw Khalil walking toward the table where he and his friends sat.

"Oh, no! He's coming this way!" Mark warned the others who begin spreading out. "Jay, scoot over," he ordered.

Jay remembered how it was when he was a new student. His current friends had rejected him initially until they learned that he played basketball. Then they welcomed him into their group. Although Khalil didn't play sports, Jay still didn't agree with the way his friends were behaving. Instead of following Mark's instructions to spread out, Jay stood up and waived Khalil over.

"What are you doing?" one of his friends asked through clenched teeth.

"What I believe God would want me to do. If y'all really don't want him sitting here, that's fine. I'll move, too. Just think of how you guys would feel if this was you."

Mark sighed, but another friend said, "Jay's right, guys. We're not representing our school well or Christ."

Just then, Khalil walked up. "Hi, Jay. Thanks for inviting me to sit with you and your friends. I'm Khalil, everyone."

Jay took the liberty of introducing his friends because he wasn't sure how they would respond. To his surprise, they all welcomed Khalil, even Mark who had been the most reluctant. Soon, they were all laughing and talking like they'd known Khalil for years.

Later that day, Jay told his dad what happened. "I'm proud of you, son! You did the right thing. You were a leader among your friends, but more importantly, you showed Christ-like character."

## In My Heart

*"When [Lydia] 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, NIV).*

## WORD!

**Acts 16:11–15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26–30, NIV**—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. **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.

**1 Corinthians 1:26**—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.

## SIDEBAR

### Lydia: Called to Serve

Paul's mission in Philippi was unique in that there seemed to be no established synagogue or Paul was too new to town to be familiar with it. Instead, on the Sabbath, he sought out "God-fearers," Gentiles who worshiped God, this time outside the city near a river. The words "place of prayer" mean the same thing as "synagogue." Paul enjoyed the hospitality of Lydia's household as well as the benefits of a relationship with such a prominent and well-respected woman.

#### How to Serve

- S**—Search the Word for biblical examples.
- E**—Enthusiastically praise God in everything you do.
- R**—Remember that you represent Christ.
- V**—Verify the purity of your motives.
- E**—Encourage others to join you in service.

## GOT IT!

### A. Serving through Hospitality

Use WORD! to help you fill in the blanks with this activity.

"When [\_\_\_\_\_] and the members of her household were \_\_\_\_\_, she invited us to her \_\_\_\_\_. 'If you consider me a believer in the \_\_\_\_\_,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she \_\_\_\_\_ us" (Acts 16:15, NIV).

### B. Feeling Welcomed

In groups, discuss a time when you have felt unwelcome somewhere. What happened to make you feel that way? Describe the feelings that this unwelcoming experience caused you. How did you react? Have you ever been unwelcoming to another person? If so, describe the situation and what you would do differently now. In general, discuss ways in which you can make others feel welcomed.

## JAM SESSION

### Lydia: Called to Serve

In the Scripture, Lydia welcomed Paul and his companions to her home. She showed them kindness during the time they ministered in her area. In the story, Jay wanted to welcome Khalil to the table, but his friends were against it. Still, Jay ignored their unloving attitudes and did what was right. We bless others and please God when we show hospitality to others. While you don't necessarily have to invite everyone into your home, you do need to treat everyone with kindness. When others see you, they should see Jesus reflected in your life by the way you treat them. When you show kindness to others, Jesus is pleased with your behavior.

## JAM ON IT!

### Intentional Service

This week think of a way that you can serve others. Specifically, think of someone you may not always treat kindly, such as a younger sibling or cousin. Think of something you can do to show kindness to that person, then do it! Remember that service isn't only about your actions, but your attitude as well.

## LAST JAM

I live to serve!

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.

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