

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

JANUARY
SESSION 03

HOLY LEARNING

Philippians 1:3-6 Paul's prayer

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

● **Say:** One of the characters in our Bible story today loved the colour purple. Her name was Lydia. You have two minutes to find or write down as many things as you can that are purple.

Share how well the children did.

(A long time ago purple was a really special colour. If you wanted to wear purple clothes, the dye could only be made from a really long process that involved crushing certain shells. This made purple clothes really expensive, so only really rich and important people could afford it, like kings, nobles and priests.)

Sing It

Today's song teaches us how to learn from God.

'Stop, look and listen' by Believers Fellowship Kids (3 mins 7 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qR72DtPSvY>

Tell It

● **Say:** Last week we discovered how Ananias listened carefully to God and visited Saul with an important message. God wanted Saul – who would now be known as Paul – to tell as many people as he could about Jesus so that they could learn more about him. Paul got to work straight away and met the fabulous, purple-loving Lydia in Philippi.

Video

Slapstick Theatre (Lydia) by Saddleback Kids (45 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_kSpELCiCs

Ask:

- What did you discover about Lydia in the clip?
- How did Lydia find out about Jesus?

● **Say:** Lydia was one of the first people to start the church in Philippi. Watch the clip and see if you can spot two other people who joined the church right at the beginning.

Video

Slapstick Theatre (Paul and Silas) by Saddleback Kids (1 min 34 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t_3BuseTSO

Ask: Which three people were there at the start of the church at Philippi?

(Lydia, the girl, the Roman guard/jailer)

🗨️ **Say:** Even though they were different, they loved each other and wanted to learn more about each other. The church in Philippi continued to grow as they learned more about God and about each other. Later on, Paul wrote a letter to them to see how they were getting on.

Screen share: Philippians 1:3-6 (ICB)

'I thank God every time I remember you. And I always pray for all of you with joy. I thank God for the help you gave me while I preached the Good News. You helped from the first day you believed until now. God began doing a good work in you. And he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again. I am sure of that.'

Discuss

- ➔ How did Paul feel about the people of Philippi? How do you know?
- ➔ Paul told the Philippians that God had started a 'good work' them. What do you think he meant?
- ➔ God has started a 'good work' in every one of us, including you. How can we keep growing and learning just like the Philippian church did?
- 🗨️ **Say:** One way we can keep growing and learning is by learning about God and learning about others. For example, when we find out about Lydia and Ananias and Paul, we can learn from them – and learn more about God too!

Action It

- 🗨️ **Say:** In our Bible verse for today, Paul told the church at Philippi that God had started an amazing work in them. He also said that God would continue this work. Paul believed that the people at Philippi would keep growing and learning more about God and about each other.
- 🗨️ **Say:** One way that we can learn more about God is by reading the Bible and discovering more about him. We do this every time we gather together for our *Explore It* sessions. Another way is to spend time in prayer.

When we try to pray, we can sometimes get distracted. It can help to have a framework to help us when we pray.

Video

God's Story: Prayer by Crossroads Kids' Club (4 mins 35 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdIXOk_QdQ

Discuss

Watch the clip together and discuss the four main headings and what they mean.

- ➔ Praise
- ➔ Repent
- ➔ Ask
- ➔ Yield

Pray It

Depending on your group, write a prayer together or give the children the chance to write their own prayer using the framework.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.