

CITY LG – February 15 - 16, 2025

Today's Bible Story: All I Have to Give (Lydia) • Acts 16:13-15

Today's Bottom Line: Use your gifts to make a difference.

Monthly Memory Verse: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* Psalm 139:14 (NirV)

Monthly Virtue: Uniqueness—Learning more about yourself so you can make a difference

WORSHIP

One in a Million

All of Me

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! It's another great day here in The City! I've MADE today's mission to be something extra-unique—just like all of you!

Did you know that the way God made you is amazing and wonderful? (*Pause for responses.*) Check it out. That's what David wrote in our Memory Verse—Psalm 139:14. This was David talking to God.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Open the Bible to Psalm 139:14 (NirV) and read.

How you made me is amazing and wonderful.

I praise you for that.

What you have done is wonderful.

I know that very well. (NirV)

I love that! We are made in God's image. God made us one of a kind.

Before we get into it today, I've got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: What **are your gifts?** What character traits or talents did God give special to you? Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

Large group leaders should walk around listening to groups as they answer this. Give them a couple of minutes.

SLIDE: Theme

We have a great story from the Bible to look at today. (*Hold up Bible.*) It's written down in the book of Acts. And it shows how someone used their uniqueness to make a difference!

Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story 9:16

Lydia's act of kindness made a big difference for Paul and his friends. And a brand-new church began in Lydia's home as more believers began to gather there.

Lydia used what she had to love others and help share the good news of Jesus. She chose to be generous and open her home to Paul, his friends, and all the believers in the city.

In fact, later, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison for teaching about and following Jesus. When they were released, we read that they went back to Lydia's house. Lydia continued to offer what she had to help the new church, even when Paul and his friends left to continue their journey and preach the news of Jesus elsewhere.

Lydia used her gifts to make a difference! And we can do that too. That's what we need to remember today. Stand up for our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Use your gifts to make a difference

Just like Lydia, every single one of us has been created by God with a unique story and unique talents and gifts.

You might not sell purple cloth or run a business or be able to invite people to your house whenever you want . . . BUT you can use the unique way God made you to help others.

There are lots of ways to learn more about yourself and find out how God made you unique and special. Think about what kinds of things you have the most fun doing . . . or what comes really easily to you.

Like, maybe you love to sing or play a musical instrument . . . or maybe you're really good at drawing or painting or making art. When you create things from your heart, you spread God's creativity, beauty, hope, and joy into the world around you."

When you discover your unique gifts, you can ask God to help you find creative ways to use them . . . so you can make a difference for others. Let's pray and talk to God about that now.

God, thank You for this place and for all my friends here at [name of your environment]. Thank You for this story about Lydia. Thank You for the way You've created each of us to be unique, with our own set of gifts, talents, and things we love to do. Please help us to discover the way You've made us so that we can use the gifts You've given us to make a difference. Show us creative ways to spread Your light and love to the world around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part.

OFFERING:

Last month we started collecting our offering to support a new mission partner called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay) in Africa. La Liberte' Church is in a financially challenged area in The Congo. The kids at the church don't have access to a lot of food so this church feeds 700 children a meal every weekend! Each meal costs \$2.00 and our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can! Check out this video....

VIDEO: Offering Video