[Narrator] In today's story we are going to spend time with Paul the apostle, and Timothy a young man who is accompanying him as they work together to tell the good news about Jesus and lay the foundation for one of the early churches. They are in a city called Philippi and are trying to work out what God is wanting them to do.

Let's meet Paul and Timothy and the other people in our story, Lydia and her friends.

[Timothy]When you came and talked with my mom and the people in our group you didn't say anything about coming to Philippi?

[Paul] Well, that wasn't the plan at the time but I told you about my dream about the man who asked me to come and tell them about Jesus. Well, he was from here and I think that it meant that God wants to show us some people with open hearts to hear about Jesus. Maybe we'll meet them today.

[Timothy] Well, I don't know. This is a roman colony after all, when we got here I saw temples to all of the Greek Gods, and of course the emperor, but we couldn't even find a synagogue, isn't that what you normally look for when you start in a city?

[Paul] Yes, that's true and I'm a little confused to but I believe that God will show us someone with an open heart. You know, I heard that people like to go out and pray by the river outside the city. Let's go there and maybe we can find some people to worship with us.

[Narrator] So Paul and Timothy went out of the city, and just as Paul had hoped they found a group of women who looked like they might be praying together.

[Paul] Excuse me, we're new here and we were wondering if you knew of anyone who worships the God of Israel.

[Lydia] Are you Jewish?

[Paul] Yes, Timothy and I are both Jewish and today is our Sabbath when we are to gather with other Jews and worship God together.

[Lydia] Well, technically I guess that my friends and I aren't Jewish but we've heard about your God and we were talking about your God. We'd like to learn more, could you talk with us?

[Paul] "Of Course.

[Narrator] So Paul spent much of the day explaining many things to the interested women, including all about Jesus and how he told and showed everyone how much God loves us.

[Lydia] I want to become a follower of Jesus. How do I do that?

[Paul] Well, that would be great. What happens with people who decide to follow Jesus is that they are baptized .

[Narrator] So Paul explained Baptism and Lydia wanted to be baptized.

[Lydia] I think that I should tell you a little more about me, now that you've told me about Jesus. You know that my name is Lydia, but I didn't tell you that I'm a business owner. I sell purple dyes and I've done well. I'd like it very much if you and Timothy and any other followers who are with you would come and stay at my house until you are ready to go.

[Narrator] And that is what happened. Paul and Timothy stayed with Lydia and taught her and her household more about Jesus and how to follow God. Lydia started a Church in her home and her story is found in the book of Acts. Her story is the story of someone with an open heart that God could use.