

The Great Cloud of Witnesses Curriculum 2020-2021

WARM Children/Family Ministry

Created by Beth Staniforth-Seamster

Topic for 9/23/2020

Lydia

Dear Parents, as we are now on month six of a global pandemic we are getting creative with our Children/Youth and Family Ministry. Normally, we would get together on Wednesday nights for Promise Point, Dinner, Team Jesus Drumming, and Middle School Youth Group. However, right now that is simply not possible! Instead, I have been working with the WARM Pastors to create a “family night” experience. Each week I will include a dinner prayer, a video introduction for the lesson, discussion questions, and an activity.

Beginning with the question, who was Jesus and why do we follow him? Each week we will explore a person who has loved God and loved God’s people; and in doing so, has made a difference in the world. My goal is to help kids understand that we all have different gifts and talents, which we can use to communicate God’s love to the world. As we learn about each different witness, I hope kids will come to understand themselves as important members of God’s family who have the power to make a difference for God’s people.

You are invited to participate as much or as little as you are able, believe me, I completely understand about the busyness of life. I would ask that if you do an activity you might consider sharing a picture. I have been thinking it would be fun to post our creations on Facebook, this way, even though we are not together in person, we can still interact.

If you have any questions or ever need supplies or additional support, please feel free to contact me at elizabeth_staniforth@yahoo.com or at church 262-473-2131.

Dinner Prayer:

Alphabet Grace

(To the tune of: A-B-C-D-E-F-G)

Thank you, God, for feeding me.

Drink and bread and meat I see,

Thank you, God, for feeding me.

With the land and grass and tree,

Thank you, God, for feeding me.

Check In Before Watching the Video:

At Promise Point and Middle School Youth Group, we like to start by sharing our Highs and Lows together. I would encourage you to do this together before we start a further discussion about the Witness of the Day. This way, you can check in and know how each other's day has been. Just as it sounds, each person is invited to share their High (the best part of their day) and their Low (the hardest part of the day), after sharing, there are more questions for discussion.

- **Today our Witness is: Lydia**

Together as a family, take some time to answer this question before you watch the video: John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church talks about an experience where his “heart was strangely warmed” and in the story of Lydia we hear that she has an experience where she heard God “in her heart.” Have you ever had an experience like that? How did it feel?

Watch Miss Beth's Introduction Video

Here are some Discussion Questions you can use if you would like to:

What did you think about the witness for this week? Did you learn anything?

How did Lydia's meeting with Paul change her?

Is Lydia's story one of generosity and service? Why or why not?

How did Lydia use her gifts to serve God and serve others?

How can you use your gifts to serve God in a similar way?

What did she look like?

Check out the “Images of Lydia” attachment to see some different ideas of what Lydia may have looked like.

Activity: Making Purple Dye.

Lydia’s business was making and selling purple cloth, using ingredients around the home experiment with making purple cloth.

- **Purple Cabbage:** Chop the cabbage finely, toss into a large pot of water, and add a tablespoon of salt for every half cabbage you use. Bring this to a boil, then simmer for up to an hour. Strain it well, allow it to cool, and you’ll have a lovely purple dye. If you add vinegar to this dye, you’ll get a lighter, pinker mauve shade. If you add ammonia to it, you’ll get blue. Experiment!

Additional Resources:

There is a coloring page for this week’s witness if you or your children enjoying coloring.

Below is a chart of other items that can be used to make natural dyes.



