

Discuss one or more of the following with a friend or family member.

Talk about a few of your favorite things—foods, or colors, or music. Do you associate a memory, place, or activity with any of those?

Have you ever gotten side tracked on a trip or in life, and ended up someplace you didn't intend to go—and it was better that way? Share your story.

Do you recharge socially or privately? Would you rather serve publicly or behind the scenes? How do you think the people around you would answer those questions?

Talk about one or more of the following with someone who can point you back to Jesus and His love for you.

The Holy Spirit prepared Lydia's heart to receive Paul's message and shaped her response. How have you seen or experienced the Holy Spirit at work in similar ways?

When have you felt most useful to other people? When have you felt most useless? What can you learn about yourself in the differences between those two settings?

Where do you think the Holy Spirit is creating openness in you right now? What help from others or promise from Jesus will shape your response?

"The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." Acts 16:14

You seem to work in such inefficient ways, Lord! A whole missionary journey sidetracked so one woman doing her laundry could come to know Jesus! You prepared the way for Paul's word; You sent Your Spirit into Lydia's heart. You alone deserve the praise for Lydia's saving faith. Open my heart, too, Lord; cause me to pay attention to Your Word. Then make my response, like Lydia's, overflow into all areas of my life. And to You alone be the glory! Amen.