

## STORY 10: INVITATION

**A**fter Jesus' death and resurrection, many people began to believe in Him, trusting God that Jesus had taken the penalty for their disobedience. The Gospel spread as the first missionaries took the news about Jesus to foreign lands.

Once, a missionary named Paul was in Troas, a city in modern-day Turkey, when he had a dream. In his dream, a man from Macedonia called out, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So Paul and his companions set out for Europe for the first time.

When they arrived in Macedonia they went to Philippi, the main city in that area and, even more importantly, a Roman colony. They stayed there several days.

One day, they left the city and went down along the river where they had heard about a prayer meeting. They showed up and sat down to talk with some women there. One woman, whose name was Lydia, was a dealer in expensive textiles, and she was known to be a woman who believed in God.

They told Lydia about Jesus and how she could have a relationship with God through trusting in Jesus, and they invited her to believe. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, God gave her a trusting heart—and she believed!

She decided that she wanted to know God personally and she asked to be baptized, which is a tradition that symbolizes new life. After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, she told the men, "If you think I really do have faith in the Lord, come stay in my home and be my guests." So the whole group stayed in her house and taught her more about Jesus.

Before they left the city, Paul and his companions went back to Lydia's house, where they met with other believers and encouraged them. God's message of redemption spread throughout Europe from Lydia's house and beyond.