



The Harness Devotional

28 September – 3 October, 2026

Lydia: Businesswoman and Convert

Verses: Acts 16:13-15

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (NIV)

Song of the week

["Take My Life and Let It Be" by Frances Ridley Havergal \(performed by Chris Tomlin\).](#)

"Take My Life and Let It Be" by Frances Ridley Havergal is a hymn of complete surrender and consecration to God. The writer offers every part of her life- her hands, feet, voice, possessions, time, will, and love- to God, asking that they be wholly devoted to His service. At its heart, the hymn is a prayer to **yield oneself completely to Christ**, allowing God to use every aspect of life for His glory.

Monday Day 1: Marketplace and Ministry

Scripture: "One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods..."
— Acts 16:14

The Message: Lydia was a successful businesswoman. She sold rare purple fabrics, which were very

expensive and worn by royalty. She was smart, hardworking, and an elite businesswoman. Her story shows us that God does not expect you to leave your career behind to serve Him. Your job, your business, and your marketplace skills are gifts from God. He puts you in your

specific workspace so you can be a light for Him right there.

Reflection Question: How can you see your daily work or business as a place to serve God this week?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for my skills and my job. Help me honor you through my professional life today.

Tuesday Day 2: The Open Heart

Scripture: "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." — Acts 16:14

The Message: Lydia was already a religious woman, but she did not yet truly know Jesus. As she sat by the riverside, listening to Paul preach, something amazing happened. God gently opened her heart to receive the truth. We can have all the money and success in the world, but our greatest need is a tender heart before God. True success starts when we let God open our hearts to His love and grace.

Reflection Question: Is there any area of your heart which has grown hard or stubborn toward God lately? Is there an area of my life I have not fully surrendered to God?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, come and soften my heart today. Help me listen closely to your truth and follow your lead.

Wednesday Day 3: Leading the Way for Family

Scripture: "And after she was baptized, and her household as well..." — Acts 16:15

The Message: Lydia did not keep her new faith a secret. As soon as she believed, she was baptized immediately. But she did not stop there! She shared the good news with her entire household—her family, her servants, and her workers. They were all baptized too! As a woman, you have massive influence over the people in your home and life. When you follow Jesus wholeheartedly, you pave a beautiful path for others to follow Him too.

Reflection Question: Who in your immediate circle or family can you encourage with your faith today?

Prayer: Jesus, give me the courage to live out my faith boldly so that my family and friends will want to know you too.

Thursday Day 4: Extravagant Hospitality

Scripture: "...she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' And she prevailed upon us." — Acts 16:15

The Message: As soon as Lydia became a Christian, she opened up

her home. She insisted that Paul and his ministry team come to stay at her place. She used her wealth and her beautiful house to care for God's servants. Hospitality is a powerful ministry tool. It does not mean having a perfect, fancy house. It simply means using what you have to make others feel welcomed, safe, and loved in the name of Jesus.

Reflection Question: How can you use your home, space, or resources to bless someone else this week?

Prayer: Father, thank you for providing me with a place to live. Help me use my home to show your warm love to others.

Friday Day 5: A Safe Haven in the Storm

Scripture: "So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed." — Acts 16:40

The Message: Later, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison for preaching. After a miraculous earthquake freed them, the very first place they went was Lydia's house. By this time, her home had become the headquarters for the very first church in Europe! Even when it was dangerous to support the apostles, Lydia stood strong. She provided a safe place of peace and

encouragement in the middle of a scary storm.

Reflection Question: How can you be a source of safety and encouragement for someone going through a tough time right now?

Prayer: Lord, make me a pillar of strength and support for my brothers and sisters in Christ when they are hurting.

Saturday Day 6: Purpose Over Profit

Scripture: "And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them..." — Acts 16:40

The Message: Lydia's life completely changed because she prioritized purpose over profit. She was still a businesswoman, but her ultimate goal was no longer just making money. Her new goal was funding and supporting the message of Jesus. When we align our finances, our careers, and our time with God's big kingdom plans, our daily work gains an eternal reward that can never be lost.

Reflection Question: How can you shift your daily mindset from just "getting through the workday" to "living out God's purpose"?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, let my career and my money be tools used for your glory. Build your kingdom through my life. Amen.