

Week 5: Priscilla, Lydia, and Phoebe – Women in Early Church Ministry

Key Passages

- Acts 16:11–15 (Lydia)
- Acts 18:24–28 (Priscilla)
- Romans 16:1–2 (Phoebe)

Themes

- Leadership and hospitality
- Teaching and mentoring
- Serving the church

Passage Summary

These passages highlight three women who faithfully served God and helped strengthen the early church.

Lydia was the first recorded believer in Europe. After accepting the gospel, she opened her home to Paul and his companions, using her hospitality to support the growing church.

Priscilla, alongside her husband Aquila, helped teach Apollos, explaining God’s truth more accurately and helping him grow in his ministry.

Phoebe is commended by Paul as a servant of the church and a trusted supporter of many believers. Her faithful service and leadership made a valuable contribution to the early Christian community.

Together, these women show that God uses different gifts—hospitality, teaching, encouragement, and service—to build His church.

What We Learn

- God equips each believer with unique gifts to serve others.
- Hospitality can be a powerful ministry.
- Teaching and encouraging others helps strengthen the church.
- Every act of faithful service matters in God’s kingdom.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Lydia support the growth of the church?
2. What can we learn from Priscilla’s role in teaching Apollos?
3. Why does Paul commend Phoebe?

4. What gifts did each of these women use to serve God?
5. How can hospitality be a way of serving others today?
6. Who has helped you grow in your faith?
7. What gifts has God given you to serve your church?
8. How can you encourage and support others this week?

Application

Consider how your gifts can strengthen your church community.

Ask yourself:

- What gifts has God given me?
- How can I use those gifts to serve others?
- Who can I encourage, mentor, or support this week?

Key Takeaway: Lydia, Priscilla, and Phoebe remind us that God uses many different gifts to build His church. Whether through hospitality, teaching, encouragement, or service, every believer has a role to play in advancing God's kingdom.