



Children's Story

Cycle C: Easter 6

From Old to New!

Title: Old to New!
Author: Donita Wiebe-Neufeld
Church: First Mennonite Church,
Edmonton, AB
Text: Acts 16:9-15

Today is the 6th Sunday of Easter, the season when Christians around the world celebrate that Jesus is alive! You might wonder what difference does it make that Jesus is alive? We can't see him or touch him, so does it matter that the disciples saw him on Easter morning? During this Easter season, we are hearing stories from the Bible book of Acts. The stories are about what happens to the disciples after Jesus goes to heaven.

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Bible Story:

One night, God gave the apostle Paul a special dream. He dreamt a young man asked him to go to a city called Macedonia to help teach about Jesus. So Paul and his friends, Silas and Timothy, went to the city. On the Sabbath day, the day people worshipped God, they went down to a place beside the river to pray. At the river they met an important woman named Lydia. Lydia ran a successful business selling purple cloth and she was already a follower of God, but she had never heard about Jesus. She liked the stories about Jesus, and soon her whole family wanted to follow Jesus too. Lydia used money from her business to help the apostles teach the stories, and she even let them stay in her house when they needed a place. She was already believed in God, but she was happy to learn more from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

Sophie Hears about Jesus in a New Way:

Sophie had always gone to the same church, Peace Mennonite. She heard stories from the Bible in Sunday School, sang hymns in the worship service, and listened quietly when the pastor preached a sermon. Sometimes she, or other children, got to read the scriptures or sing in a children's choir, or help collect the offering. Sophie liked her church and she thought every church was just like hers-sort of quiet and serious.

One day, her friend Karen invited Sophie to go to her church. So she did. Karen's church was very different from what Sophie was used to! There were loud drums and guitars and a rock-band singer leading the music. People liked to wave their arms and clap when they sang, some even danced in the aisles! It was dark in the sanctuary so everyone could see the large screen and the pictures that went along with the pastor's sermon. The Bible verses were up on the screen too, and Sophie couldn't see who was reading them.

For Sophie, it was a very new way to hear the stories about Jesus. She liked doing the old things in new ways. The next week, she invited Karen to Peace church. Maybe she could share Bible stories in a way that would be new and different to Karen!

Prayer:

Thank you God for giving us lots of new and different ways to share the stories of Jesus with each other. Thank you for the way the stories of Jesus always give us new ways to think about and worship You. Help us to be good learners, like Lydia and Sophie. AMEN

Question for adults:

When Lydia hears stories of Jesus, her faith is renewed and she responds by using her gifts to help the apostles. What makes your faith and energy feel new?