

The Role of *Households* Among God's People

1. The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same.

2. Lydia Is Converted to Christ and Her *Household* Is Baptized.

3. God Continues to Use *Faithful Households* for His Kingdom.

CONCLUSION: The Second Missionary Journey breaks new ground as the gospel is preached for the first time on the European continent, yet the same paradigm for gospel advance through faithful households is continued. The Lord continues to build His Church. He uses the families of His saints and He adds new families from among the nations. As we see His faithful pattern through these families, let us continue to stress trust in the Lord and disciple believers and their households to walk in His ways.

Colossians 2: 6 – 15

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Second Chronicles 31: 18

“They were enrolled with all their little children, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, the whole assembly, for they were faithful in keeping themselves holy.”

First Corinthians 7: 14

“For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God's covenant people is expanding to include men and women, boys and girls from every tribe, tongue, and nation throughout the earth. As those who were far off come and pledge their loyalty to King Jesus, they bring their families too. They all receive the sign and seal of baptism for inclusion in the visible people of God.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 16:11-15; Genesis 17:1-8; Colossians 2:6-15**. DISCUSS, What is the role of biblically faithful households among God's people? How is this related to the covenant sign and seal of baptism for the whole household? PRAY "Jesus, Thank You for faithfully keeping the covenant with us. Make us faithful too!"

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 10:1-114; 16:11-15; Gen 17:1-8; First Chronicles 31:11-21**. DISCUSS, How did God work in Cornelius and his household? Why is this significant? How do we see the same pattern here as how He has called Abraham and his family? How about Hezekiah and the people of God? MEDITATE on **Joshua 24:14-15**. PRAY, "Lord, You are the God of Your people. You have been faithful to us. Thank You, Jesus, for making us faithful too."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 16:11-15; First Corinthians 7:12-16**. DISCUSS, How does God work in Lydia and her household? Who all is in Lydia's household? What are their ages and beliefs? Why are these not the most essential questions? What did God do in Lydia's heart? Why is a household "holy" because of one parent? MEDITATE on **Joshua 24:14-15**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for loving us enough to give us opportunities to point others to You."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 16:11-34; Proverbs 22:6; Genesis 7:1, 6, 23**. DISCUSS, How did God work in the Philippian Jailer and his household? Who believed? Why was his whole family baptized? What did they do afterwards (v. 34)? Why? MEDITATE on **Joshua 24:14-15**. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, work in our families, that we might faithfully serve You. Make us faithful, Lord Christ!”

Thursday

READ **Acts 2:38-39; 16:11-15; 18:5-11; Colossians 2:6-15**. DISCUSS, How did God work in Crispus and his entire household? Why is this significant at this particular juncture when Paul is beginning to go directly to the Gentiles rather than his usual pattern of going first to the synagogue? MEDITATE on **Joshua 24:14-15**. PRAY, “Jesus, enable us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth.”

Friday

READ **Acts 16:11-15; Genesis 17:1-8; Colossians 2:6-15**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Joshua 24:14-15**. PRAY for renewal and revival in our families at FCCW and throughout the area.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 15:40-16:40**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Joshua 24: 14 – 15

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”