

"We sent for you; we want your help." But what, then, means the man from Macedonia? Who was he? Who sent him? Ah! there is just the key to it. God sent him. Not the Macedonians themselves. They did not want the Gospel. God sent him because he saw that they needed the Gospel. The mysterious man was an utterance, not of the conscious want, but of the unconscious need, of these poor people. How noble and touching is this picture of God! The unconscious needs of the world are all appeals and cries to him. He does not want to hear the voice of conscious want. The mere poverty is a supplication for wealth; the mere darkness cries for light.—*Phillips Brooks.*

Versé 14. Lydia. Many a church has had its beginning in the sitting room or kitchen of some godly woman who stood alone. A church now noted for its strength treasures a little table because about it gathered the first company of communicants in that town. Only three or four persons met in the humble home of the first Christian woman of that community, to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Versé 15. Hospitality. I heard a generous man whose home has been noted for its hospitality say, "Our guests have represented all sorts and conditions of men and women—frontier preachers, deaconesses, bishops, secretaries, missionaries, presiding elders. They have more than repaid us by the information they have imparted and the wide outlook they gave us. Their prayers at our family altar, their benedictions and letters have been an untold blessing to us."—*Dr. J. B. Young.*

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

BY MRS. J. H. KNOWLES.

Here we have our introduction to the young man, Timothy, to whom Paul wrote the good advice we were considering a few Sundays ago. He had a fine reputation among the people who knew him best. That speaks well for him. That was the reason Paul chose him for a companion in his travels and a helper in the great work of preaching the Gospel. If you want to know the real worth of a person find out what the folks at home think of him. Some who look very well in public are not at all beautiful in their everyday dress and manners. But a truly lovely and worthy character will bear the inspection of eyes which observe it all the time.

It seems strange that when Paul and Silas had a purpose to carry the Gospel to certain places the Holy Spirit should forbid them. How he forbade them we do not know. It may have been by circumstances they recognized as providential, or it may have been by a strong impression upon the mind that this was not the best course to pursue. But suppose they had gone right on with their plans without waiting the guidance of God, what a mis-

take it would have proved! God knew where they could work with the best results. We are sure to accomplish something if we follow his guidance. Remember that. It is true in everyday affairs as in especially religious work. They did not have to wait long for an intimation of the right thing to do. In the night Paul had a vision. What wonderful things followed that dream! A man from Macedonia with outstretched hands implores, "Come over and help us." A man who had been waiting the guidance of God immediately endeavors to go into Macedonia. The result, as we see it after nearly nineteen centuries, is Christianity covering the continent of Europe. That man of Macedonia represents the Christian world. It wants help; its only help is the Gospel. Just as the vision stood before Paul the millions who have not Jesus stand before us now. The cry is very pitiful. O, how much they need help! Only those who have a "passion for souls," as Paul had, see the vision and hear the cry. But when he reached Macedonia nobody was standing with open arms to receive him. If he had been, as we often are, discouraged by appearances, he would have said, "There must be some mistake about this; that was only a dream; we might better have gone where there was prospect of doing something." They were in Philippi several days, with no opening at all for the Gospel, it seems. On the Sabbath they went to a prayer meeting—a good place to begin. But there were only a few women present. It looked very unpromising. A long journey; great expense; much effort and exposure; and now only a few women to talk to! What a waste of time! But they used the opportunity as it was given; one woman "heard," and the Lord opened her heart so that she attended to the things that were spoken by Paul. That was the entrance of the Gospel into Europe. A mighty river rose from that little spring of obedient, faithful service which has brought life to many nations, tongues, and people. What an opportunity would have been lost if Paul had turned away from Macedonia because he found only a few women to whom he could preach!

The best work in a Sunday school class is sometimes done on a rainy day when only two or three are present.

The Teachers' Meeting.

This is a good lesson to present in the line of its characters, with applications from each. We have: (1) Silas, a broad-minded, devoted worker for Christ. See Acts 15. 22-41. (2) Timothy, not directly mentioned in this lesson, but present in all its events, a gentle-minded, tender-hearted youth, who joined Paul at Lystra and continued to be his helper through life. (3) Luke, the loyal friend, physician, evangelist. He was a modest man—never mentions his own name; he was a broad man, as is