

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LORD (ACTS 18:1-17)

DATE MAY 17, 2020

¹After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." ¹¹And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹²But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." ¹⁶And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this. (ESV)

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON

PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LORD (ACTS 18:1-17)

DATE

MAY 17, 2020

1. On the scale below, circle how you're feeling. Knowing that in these strange times circumstances can change quickly, are there specific things that have happened to you this week that have led you to feel more or less encouraged?

1 2 3 4 5
Very Very
Discouraged Encouraged

2. There are many names mentioned in this passage which can make following the dialogue difficult. Take a moment to highlight the names on text above.
3. Underline or highlight wording or phrases in the passage that indicate either a positive or negative response to Paul and his message. Choose different colors to help see the distinction. What are your observations?
4. How would you describe the city of ancient Corinth?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**, where Paul describes his first visit to Corinth? As you consider the previous chapters of Acts, what kind of condition (physically and emotionally) do you think Paul was in when he arrived? What was his strategy for evangelism as he describes it?
6. How did Paul's initial evangelism of the city turn out? Read Acts 18:6. What was Paul's state of mind at that point?

7. Re-read **Acts 18:9-10**, and underline the Lord's instruction to Paul. Using the chart below break down the nature of both the commands and the promises given to Paul.

Commands or Instructions	Promises or Guarantees

8. Some would argue that the doctrine of election actually prevents us from evangelizing the lost around us. How did God's guarantee of salvation serve to compel Paul's action of evangelism? If God spoke to *you* in a dream and said that he had many "who are my people" on *your* street, how would that change *you*?
9. As you finish this study, take a minute to look up one or two of the many promises that God has given his people. Meditate on them and take some time to pray them back to the Lord.

Isaiah 40:29-31	Deuteronomy 31:8	1 John 1:9
Philippians 4:6-7	Jeremiah 29:11	Psalms 86:5
James 4:7	Isaiah 54:10	Romans 8:28
Matthew 6:31-33	James 1:5	Psalms 9:9-10
Romans 8:37-39	Psalms 23	John 8:36
Isaiah 41:10-13	Isaiah 43:2	Philippians 4:19