

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON

ENCOURAGEMENT BY LIFE TRANSFORMATION (ACTS 18:18 – 19:10)

DATE

MAY 24, 2020

¹⁸After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. ¹⁹And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. ²¹But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.

²²When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. ²³After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, ²⁸for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

19 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ²And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

⁸And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. (ESV)

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1. Before diving into this week's study, take a moment to consider and thank God for the transformation you've witnessed within your own life since finding Christ.
2. Summarize the main idea from this weekend's message in a single sentence below.
3. This passage is yet another example of the expansive geography covered in the book of Acts. Take a moment to underline every location mentioned in the passage above, and try to find one or two on map provided.
4. Have you put much thought into what God wants you to do in this life? How does **Colossians 3:17** put a finer point on what our life's callings are to be centered around?
5. It is obvious that the Lord used the Apostle Paul in some remarkable ways and in many remarkable situations. Consider his own description of his life so far in **2 Corinthians 11:23-33**. How would you encourage a young believer who compares his or her life's calling with Paul's and finds themselves discouraged?
6. Consider the story of Apollos in **18:24-28**. Understanding that a person can be sincere, and yet sincerely wrong, how does **1 Timothy 4:16** commend us to act? How does the community of believers help us in our thinking?
7. What did Aquila and Priscilla do for Apollos? How does their response to Apollos serve as a good example for us?
8. How would you explain the difference between John's baptism and being baptized in the name of Jesus? Take a moment to look back at **Acts 8:15-17**; also see **Luke 3:3-6** and **John 1:23-27**.
9. If you had a friend who was concerned about their salvation and whether or not they had been truly baptized in the Holy Spirit, where in Scripture would you take them to help them understand better?