

Being Faithful Far From Home

“Living Large”, part 25, Insights from Acts 18:1-28
Pastor Bob Johnson, February 25th, 2024

Insights From Acts 18

- Being uprooted & hospitable (v1-3)
- Being faithful & flexible (v4-6)
- Being responsive & decisive (v7-8)
- Being fearful & finished (v9-11)
- Being apathetic & assaulted (v12-17)
- Being dependent & determined (v18)
- Being strategic & sensitive (v19-23)
- Being teachable & helpful (v24-28)

Examples and Next Steps From Acts 18

From Paul ... Is some extra support needed?

From Priscilla & Aquila ...

Are you starting over and need support and discernment?

From Sosthenes ...

Does someone need your support? (1 Corinthians 1:1-2)

From Crispus ...

Do you need support for what God is prompting you to do?

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our sixth week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Acts 18:1-3, we read how a couple were uprooted and had to find another place to live and minister. Speaking of being uprooted, when have you had to make a sudden change in where you live or work and what helped you get resettled somewhere else?

In Corinth, Paul was being stretched as a Christ follower. Have you ever gone through a season of your life where you needed more encouragement, accountability and/or commitment to certain spiritual habits etc. to keep yourself from potential stumbling spiritually?

In Acts 18:9-11, God gave Paul a needed pep talk to not quit and leave Corinth when he wanted to.

When have you needed some encouragement from God to not give in to how you were feeling?

How did God provide the encouragement you needed?

After reading what happened to Sosthenes in Acts 18 and how most likely this is the same guy that is with Paul when he wrote 1 Corinthians three years later, it seems Paul reached out to this guy and ministered to him and invited him to join his team.

Sometimes, our greatest ministry opportunities come from some not so pleasant experiences of our past.

When have you had an opportunity to relate to someone else based on what you previously experienced?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From reflecting on Acts 18 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Acts 18, we read how Paul made a certain Nazirite vow that is described in Numbers 6. There are times we experience seasons of life where a higher level of spiritual focus and devotion is needed to stay on course. Let's read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 which is part of a letter Paul wrote back to the church in Corinth three years after he left. What lessons/insights can we see from this passage in regards to 'finishing our race' or 'certain laps of our ultimate race' well?

What additional insights can we see in the following passages:

Hebrews 3:1-6, 12-14; Hebrews 10:23-25; 35-39; Hebrews 12:1-2, James 4:4-8

2. Throughout our study of the Book of Acts, including Acts 18, conflicts keep showing up. It is important to learn how to respond to conflict in ways that are healthy. What are some insights from the following passages that can remind us and help us to respond to conflict in a more God-honoring way?

Matthew 5:23-25; 7:3-5; 18:15; Romans 12:18

What challenges have you faced or are aware of as we try to respond to potential conflict in the ways these passages suggest?

3. Throughout the Book of Acts, we have seen how Paul had a calling to tell people how sin separates us from God and how they didn't have to be spiritually separate from God.

One way our 'sin situation' is described is being 'spiritually lost'. Paul endured a tremendous amount of conflict, pain and suffering to live out his ministry of sharing the gospel. He knew from personal experience the difference between being lost and being found by Jesus.

In Luke 15:1-10, Jesus tells two stories that give us some perspective on how Jesus viewed spiritually lost people. What similarities do you see in these two stories? What lessons do these stories teach us about those who are spiritually lost and God's attitude toward them?

How can Luke 19:10 and 2 Peter 3:9 add to our understanding of how God wants us to view those who are spiritually lost?

The fact that two synagogue rulers (Crispus and Sosthenes) became followers of Jesus is a great reminder that Jesus is still committed to 'seek and save' the lost even if we don't think they would be interested. Is there someone in your life you once thought would never be interested in following Jesus who is now a follower of Jesus? Who is someone you should keep praying for and find ways to care for who has not yet chosen to follow Jesus?

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?