

10. Apollos travels to Achaia to minister there.

Acts 18:26-28 When Priscilla and Aquila heard (Apollos) preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

²⁷ Apollos had been thinking about going to Achaia, and the brothers and sisters in Ephesus encouraged him to go. They wrote to the believers in Achaia, asking them to welcome him. When he arrived there, he proved to be of great benefit to those who, by God's grace, had believed. ²⁸ He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.

11. Discussion: (a) The couple, Priscilla and Aquila, were Paul's disciples. What can we learn from their example about how God often uses ordinary disciples to teach highly respected spiritual leaders like Apollos? (b) How did Apollos determine that it was God's will for him to travel on to Achaia (southern Greece) in order to minister there? Did he make the right decision? (c) What can we learn from this example about how to be confident that a particular decision must be the will of God?

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: *Blue* = New Testament *Red* = Words of Jesus
Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 24

1. Background: Corinth is a coastal city in southern Greece, west of Athens (now spelled Korinthes). Claudius Caesar ruled from 41-54 AD.

2. Paul Meets Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth.

Acts 18:1-6 Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. ³ Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was.

⁴ Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. ⁵ And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶ But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, "Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles."

3. Discussion: (a) What two things do we know Paul had in common with Aquila and Priscilla? (b) Where did Paul go first to preach and what was his message? (c) What was his response when the Jews opposed and insulted him?

4. Paul's Corinthian ministry turns to the Gentiles.

Acts 7-17 Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and

everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized.

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent!" ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me." ¹¹ So Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.

¹² But when Gallio became governor of Achaia,* some Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him before the governor for judgment. ¹³ They accused Paul of "persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to our law."

¹⁴ But just as Paul started to make his defense, Gallio turned to Paul's accusers and said, "Listen, you Jews, if this were a case involving some wrongdoing or a serious crime, I would have a reason to accept your case. ¹⁵ But since it is merely a question of words and names and your Jewish law, take care of it yourselves. I refuse to judge such matters." ¹⁶ And he threw them out of the courtroom.

¹⁷ The crowd then grabbed Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him right there in the courtroom. But Gallio paid no attention.

* Achaia is the large island province in southern Greece.

5. Discussion: (a) What two important things did Paul learn from the Lord's message, received through a vision? (b) How long did Paul spend in Corinth and how would you evaluate his ministry there? (c) Why do you think the crowd took sides against Paul's critics? (d) Tell about a time when you felt intimidated about sharing your faith.

6. Paul Returns to Antioch of Syria.

Acts 18:18-23 Paul stayed in Corinth for some time after that, then said good-bye to the brothers and sisters and went to

nearby Cenchrea. (a town near Corinth) There he shaved his head according to Jewish custom, marking the end of a vow. Then he set sail for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him.

¹⁹ They stopped first at the port of Ephesus,* where Paul left the others behind. While he was there, he went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews. ²⁰ They asked him to stay longer, but he declined. ²¹ As he left, however, he said, "I will come back later, God willing." Then he set sail from Ephesus. ²² The next stop was at the port of Caesarea (Coastal city NW of Jerusalem). From there he went up and visited the church at Jerusalem and then went back to Antioch (on the coast of Syria).

²³ After spending some time in Antioch, Paul went back through Galatia and Phrygia, (in present day central Turkey) visiting and strengthening all the believers.

* Ephesus was a port in present day southwest Turkey.

7. Discussion: (a) We don't know what vow Paul had taken, but would you like to take a guess? (b) Page 1 tells about Paul's first contact with Priscilla and Aquila. What does Paul's decision to take them with him tell us about his opinion of his new friends? (c) What evidence do you see that Paul was anxious to return to Jerusalem and Antioch?

8. A teacher named Apollos arrives at Ephesus.

Acts 18:24-25 Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. ²⁵ He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism.

9. Background: John's baptism was water baptism as a witness to repentance and faith. The baptism in the Holy Spirit was promised to all the Lord's *servants* (Acts 2:17).