

STUDY GUIDE

for the week of 11/17-11/23
Acts 18:1-28



WHATS THE STORY?

Paul heads to Corinth, where he settles down and has a successful ministry for a year and a half. During this time, we are introduced to the important and influential early church leaders Priscilla, Aquilla, and Apollos.

LECTIO DEVINA

Prepare: Find a calm and quiet place to read and absorb the passage.

Read: Read through the passage. Listen for any words or phrases that jump out and listen for what God has to say.

Reflect: Try to understand what God could be saying to you through this passage.

Respond: Journal or pray to God, communicating about what you think God was telling you through Scripture.

Rest: Spend time contemplating, allowing God to work.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is it important to “build roots” in a community as a church?
- What does it feel like to have partners in your goals for the Kingdom of God?



FAMILY STUDY

Discuss: Why is it important to have close relationships with other Christians?

How can we correct people without being accusatory or negative?

A Deeper Look

After Paul left Athens, he found himself in the metropolitan hub of Corinth. Corinth was a large city, with a lot of cultural diversity, wealth disparity, and Roman influence. Here, Paul met a couple who would become two of his greatest allies in his goal to spread the message of the gospel: Priscilla and Aquila. Having come to Corinth after they were banished by the Emperor Claudius from Rome because they were Jews, they became fast friends with Paul, likely because of their shared profession and their shared heritage.

Paul was able to stay in Corinth for a long time, preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus in confidence because of God's promise of safety; both Jews and Gentiles came to know Jesus and to be baptized into the church during Paul's stay in Corinth, including the leader of the local synagogue.

Despite his success, the Jews who didn't believe the gospel went to Gallio, the governor of the region, and made the same sort of claim that those in Thessalonica made against Paul: he was telling people to worship God in ways that were in violation of the laws of Rome. Unlike the leaders in Thessalonica and Berea, Gallio was able to see through this (somewhat) dishonest attack, and instead allowed them to resolve it as a religious issue rather than a criminal one. Even so, Gallio's indifference also meant that he stood by as the frustrated crowd beat one of the leaders of the synagogue, Sosthenes, who had presumably believed the message that Paul was preaching.

After staying in Corinth for a long time, Paul backtracked through many of the cities he had already visited, encouraging the disciples on his way back to Jerusalem, Antioch, and Asia Minor. Meanwhile, Priscilla and Aquila, who had left Corinth with Paul, stayed in Ephesus, where they met Apollos and taught him the good news about Jesus. All three became powerful workers in the kingdom of God.