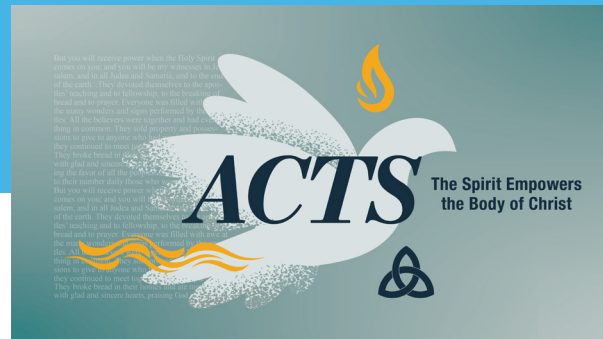


Discussion Questions

March 2, 2025

Acts 18:1-17

Jesus Speaks Hope into Weariness & Fear



1. Read Acts 18:1-4

Why do you think Paul worked a trade alongside his ministry? How might this relate to balancing work and faith today?

2. Read Acts 18:5-8

What do we learn about how Paul understood his own responsibility and accountability when it came to sharing the gospel?

3. Read Acts 18:9-11

What promises does Jesus make to Paul?

What can we surmise Paul was going through that led to Jesus addressing him this way?

4. If appropriate, share an area where you have struggled to recognize that Jesus is near or where you are prone to give in to fear.

How can the truths that Jesus speaks to Paul impact us as we recognize the same truths Jesus speaks over us?

What can we practically do to help keep these truths ever before us as we often feel alone, afraid, or weary?

5. God told Paul "Don't be silent, I have many people in this city," revealing that He had a bigger plan.

How could trusting that God has a purpose you can't see yet shift your perspective on current struggles?

6. Paul stayed 18 months in Corinth because he believed Jesus' words. What is one practical step that you can take to keep going in faith, knowing God is with you?

Acts 18:4-11 (NLT)

Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. 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. 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." Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. 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. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me." So Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.

Acts 18:1 (NLT)

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)**

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were.

Acts 18:2-23 (NLT)

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.

Suetonius (1st Century)

Because the Jews at Rome caused continuous disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from the city.

Acts 18:4-6 (NLT)

Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. 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. 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."

Acts 18:7-8 (NLT)

Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. 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.

1 Corinthians 2:3 (NLT)

I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling.

Acts 18:9-11 (NLT)

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

Lloyd Ogilvie - Acts: Drumbeat of Love

"For the first time, fear dominated his emotions. Like a wounded boxer, he could not make himself get up for one more punching. More than that, he had lost his imaginative expectation of what God could do in Corinth."

Acts 18:9-10 (NLT)

"Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me."

Acts 18:16-17 (NLT)

And [Gallio the governor] threw them out of the courtroom. The crowd then grabbed Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him right there in the courtroom. But Gallio paid no attention.

Dr. Dean Pinter

We need to hear the words of Jesus, "I am with you," to jar us to our senses and, as necessary, comfort and relieve us from our loneliness and fear. We need not wait for a vision in the night. We can read and receive the words written in Acts, and those found throughout the story of God, in the clear light of day. Read the words slowly. Let them wash over you; let them penetrate the layers of cultural conditioning; and let them soak into your soul. You are not alone. Fear not. The Lord is with you, and he has placed you in a communion of saints that is continents wide, centuries deep, and reaches to the heavens.

"I am with you"

"You don't need to be afraid"

"You are not alone"