

Acts 18:1-17

December 28, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Tentmaker Challenge

Materials needed (enough to split into small groups):

- Newspaper or rolls of paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- String
- Clothespins or binder clips
- 2 metal folding chairs (per group)

How to play:

- Divide students into small groups of 4-6.
- Give each group a materials kit and instruct them to work together to make a "tent" out of the materials provided.
- Set a timer for 10 minutes to let the teams work.
- At the end of 10 minutes, leaders will inspect each tent and pick their favorite as the winner!

Teaching Moment:

In our teams today, we worked together to build "tents." In our reading today,

we'll learn about how Paul (a tentmaker himself) worked with others to earn a living while he ministered to the people in Corinth. Paul worked in community not only to earn a living, but also to share the gospel. Let's read about how he did it!

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 18:1-17.

What ministry connections did Paul make in verses 1-8? Why are these types of connection important in the church?

How did Paul respond to those who rejected the message? Is this surprising at all? Why?

What did the Lord tell Paul in verses 9-11?

Why do you think the Lord gave Paul this vision? What was the impact of this vision?

In what area of life do you need the reminder that God is with you and won't abandon you?

What is surprising about the turn of events in verses 12-17?

How did this verify God's promise to protect Paul?

What did this mean for Paul's ministry in Corinth?

GOING DEEPER

How did Paul respond to different groups in different ways in today's passage?

How might God lead us to do the same as we meet different groups of people?

APPLICATION

What can we learn from Paul and his ministry in Corinth?

How have you been encouraged in difficult moments of your Christian life in the past? Why is it important that we support one another in this way?

How does the promise of God's presence encourage us to share Jesus with others?

PRAYER

Thank God for His presence and protection, even in difficult and scary times. Praise Him for the gift of community in your life, like Paul found with Priscilla and Aquila. Ask for His help as you seek to share the gospel boldly.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

January 4, 2025 --- Acts 18:18-19:7

COMMENTARY

Acts 18:1-17

18:1 Corinth was another leading city of Greece (Achaia). Its two harbors made it a center of trade for the Mediterranean area.

18:2 It appears that in AD 41 Emperor Claudius prohibited Jews from gathering together in Rome. Then in AD 49 he expelled them altogether, probably because the earlier measures did not work. Presumably Aquila and Priscilla were expelled at this time. That they had recently arrived from Italy suggests that Paul arrived in Corinth in about AD 50.

18:3 Tentmakers refers to people who worked in leather, possibly related to working in the goat hair cloth that was made in Cilicia, Paul's home region. Later rabbinic tradition confirmed the importance of teachers having a trade to help support themselves.

18:4 As was his custom, Paul reasoned in the synagogue, attempting to persuade both Jews and Greeks. The Greeks were likely God-fearers he encountered at the synagogue, but possibly outside as well. An inscription has been found in Corinth that attests to a "synagogue of the Hebrews." The date of the inscription is debated, but it probably postdates Paul.

18:5 When Silas and Timothy finally caught up with Paul in Corinth, he was engaged in what he did best—preaching the word and bearing witness to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

18:6 Shook out his clothes symbolized that Paul was finished giving priority to Jewish evangelism, as if he were shaking the dust from the folds of his garment. He would concentrate on the more fruitful harvest among the Gentiles. Similarly, in 13:46 Paul and Barnabas responded to persistent Jewish rejection of the gospel by saying they were “turning to the Gentiles.”

18:7–8 Paul’s vow in v. 6 did not mean no one from the synagogue had accepted his message, as the conversion of Crispus and his whole household indicates. Also, since Titius Justus (a Gentile) was said to be a worshiper of God, he almost certainly had been a member of the synagogue that was right next door to his home.

18:9–11 Paul had experienced trouble in previous towns, including Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. But the Lord assured him that he would have a productive ministry in Corinth, which explains why he stayed for a year and a half.

18:12 The time when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, of which Corinth was the capital, is a relatively firm date in NT chronology. An inscription found at Delphi says Gallio was installed as proconsul in early AD 51. Paul appeared before him later that year.

18:13 For another instance in which Paul was accused of persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law, see 16:20–21 and the note there.

18:14–17 Gallio seemed both perceptive (I refuse to be a judge of such things) and negligent (the beating of Sosthenes did not concern him). Keeping order in a multi-ethnic provincial town, heavily involved in trade and travel, was not easy. Gallio preferred the hands-off approach.