

What's Next? | Acts 18:23-20:28 2021 Fall #5

Announcements: Please send an updated ROSTER to Elizabeth Leonard. Just send a quick email with the names of your group members. We would like an accurate account by the 15th of October. Thank you. elizabeth.leonard@tworiverschurch.org

Tips: Those new members who have joined an existing group need extra attention and support. It is always a good idea to reach out with a phone call in the first few weeks to check on how they are feeling about the group. Ask if they have any questions or concerns. Ask what their expectations are for the group. Give encouragement and help them get to know you personally. Occasional phone calls to build relationships with each group member is a best practice of being a group leader.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) What has been the most helpful way you have been blessed by other believers during a crisis.
- 2) Who are you praying for on your index card? (Our pastors during this sermon series have encouraged us all to be praying for unbelievers in our lives and put them on an index card)

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Acts 18:18 - 27

What type of person was Apollos? What do you notice about how Priscilla and Aquila approached him? How do you think their correction was received? Who was helpful to you when you were enthusiastic, but perhaps still immature in your faith? How did this person help? Who could you be helping now?

Read Acts 19:1 - 21

This is early in Paul's 3rd missionary journey. Why do you think he heads to Ephesus (look back at 18:19-21)? The disciples he found there had not heard of the Holy Spirit and still needed to be taught about Jesus. What do you learn from Acts 2:38 about the relationship between faith in Jesus and receiving the Spirit? What do you think was God's purpose behind the "extraordinary miracles" Paul did?

Read Acts 19:23 - 20:12

The message of the gospel directly challenged the idolatry of Ephesus. What was the real concern for Demetrius and the men in the mob? Paul wanted to wade into the mob, but his friends wouldn't let him (v.30-31). What are the threatening things in your world? How do we discern whether to wade into it or stay back?

Ever heard a sermon that was so long you thought you might fall out a window and die? Or you wanted to?

Read Acts 20:13-38

The most precious thing in Paul's life was living out what God called him to (v.34). Do you know someone who lives with that kind of clarity? What are they like? What vies for that place of value in your life? Paul says that he didn't "shrink away" from speaking the truth. Is there an issue in the life of someone who is close to you that you've shrunk away from speaking into?

Re-read Acts 20:28-38

Who makes up the "flock" that you have responsibility for? Read Hebrews 10:24-25 What can you do together to put this into practice to see God formed in each other?

Responding to Jesus

These questions are meant for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, What is the one thing you want me to know about you as a result of this week's lesson
- 2) Lord, What things would you like me to pray for related to this lesson.

Further Challenge

- 1) Read the passage again, asking God to help you see and meditate on any commands, warnings or promises.