

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 9, 2007

Passage: Acts 18:18-19:21

Memory Passage: Colossians 3:16-17

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 18:18-23.** What is the next city that Paul visits (along with Aquila and Priscilla)? Although there is no mention of any ministry in Cenchrea, what do we know about this city from Romans 16:1?
- (b) Why did he have his hair cut off? What kind of a vow might Paul have been taking (Numbers 6:2-5)?
- (c) Read through Romans 14:1-6. Was it wrong to make a vow in the New Testament? What is the main concern (Romans 14:22-23)?
- (d) What does Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 tell us about making vows? What did Jesus say about taking vows in Matthew 5:33-37? What is better than making vows?
- (e) Why might Paul have made this vow (1 Corinthians 9:20)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:18-23 and Matthew 5:33-37. Talk about the importance of our words. When we make a vow or a promise, what does God expect of us? What kind of a vow did Paul make in Acts 18? Why did he keep this vow? Pray that you might consider carefully the importance of all your words and promises and that God might be honored by them.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 18:24-28.** Who do Aquila and Priscilla meet in Ephesus? How is he described? What was his greatest strength?
- (b) What does Luke mean that he “spoke accurately about the things of the Lord?” What indicates that he was not a believer?
- (c) How did Aquila and Priscilla respond when they heard him teaching in the synagogue? What principle can we gather from the way they corrected him?
- (d) What do we know about John’s baptism (Matthew 3:7-13; Mark 1:4-8; Luke 3:3-6)? What was it designed to do? How did Jesus describe John’s ministry in Matthew 11:7-11?
- (e) What impact did Aquila and Priscilla have on his ministry (Acts 18:27-28)? Where was his ministry especially effective (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:6)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:24-28 and Colossians 3:16-17. What is the importance of God’s Word in our lives? How does the Word of God help us to be able to accurately share His gospel with others? How can we help one another to be strong in the Word? Give thanks together for the treasure of God’s Word.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:1-7.** What group of men does Paul encounter upon his return to Ephesus?
- (b) Are these men believers in Jesus? What is missing from their understanding? Who did Paul tell them about?
- (c) What does this passage tell us about baptism? Had these men been baptized before (Acts 19:3)? Why did Paul baptize them again? Which comes first, baptism or belief?
- (d) Does this passage teach about a second blessing in the Holy Spirit that occurs after salvation? When does a person receive the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)? Can anyone be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9)? What was missing from their experience (1 Corinthians 12:13)?
- (e) What might be significant about their prophesying and speaking in tongues (Acts 2:14-21) When else had there been similar experiences (Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-48)? Why was this evidence necessary also?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:1-7 and Romans 8:9. What have we learned about salvation from Apollos and these other disciples of John? Is it possible to know the Scriptures accurately and not be saved? When should a person receive baptism (Acts 8:36-38)? Pray for the salvation of someone who need to know Jesus.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:8-10.** What did Paul do when he arrived in Ephesus? What is normal about his activity? What is unusual?
- (b) What eventually occurs? What is Paul’s response when the gospel is rejected?
- (c) What are Christians being called (Acts 9:2; 19:23; 22:4)?
- (d) Why do you think they were called by this name (John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 3:3)? What does this tell you about the nature of the Christian life (1 Thessalonians 1:6)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 19:8-10 and Matthew 7:13-14. Talk about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Are you following Jesus with all your heart, even though it might mean persecution for you? Pray that God will give you the boldness to stand for Jesus and follow Him no matter what the consequences.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 19:11-21.** Describe some of the miracles that were taking place in Ephesus? How does Luke describe them in Acts 19:11? What should this tell us about if these are ordinary in the Christian life and experience?
- (b) How did this affect some Jewish exorcists? What was missing in their “exorcism?”
- (c) What effect did this incident have on the believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:17-20)? What steps did these take to rid themselves of every demonic influence?
- (d) What did it cost these believers to destroy all this? Wouldn’t it have been better to sell it and use the money? Why did they destroy it?
- (e) Do miracles become the emphasis in Ephesus (Acts 19:21)? What is the main emphasis in spiritual warfare according to Ephesians 6:10-20 (underline “stand”)? What was Paul’s main concern in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:17-20; Colossians 1:13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:11-21 and Ephesians 6:10-20. Is the demonic world real? Should we fear it (1 John 4:4)? What is spiritual warfare? How can we best defeat the devil and his forces? Pray that your mouth would be opened to speak boldly the mystery of the gospel to others this week.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 18:18-19:21. Discuss how knowing the truth and being saved by it are different? What three groups of people are found in this passage that know the truth but are missing the most important thing? What is spiritual warfare and how can we best be involved in it? Pray for the gospel to be clear to everyone wherever the Word is preached tomorrow.

DATE: September 9, 2007

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The Gospel in Ephesus

“[They] explained the Word of God more accurately to him...”