

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 2, 2007

Passage: Acts 18:1-17

Memory Passage: Isaiah 41:10

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 18:1. What city does Paul arrive in next? What do you know about the city of Corinth? What was its reputation?
- (b) How did Paul describe his feelings when he first came to Corinth (1 Corinthians 2:1-3)? Look back through Acts 17. Why might he have felt this way?
- (c) How did Paul describe the moral condition of Corinth (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 16-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)? What impact did the gospel have on the people of the city?
- (d) Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-21. What motivated Paul to share the gospel in this environment? Make a list of his reasons.
- (e) What are some reasons we hesitate to share the gospel today? How do they compare with Paul's concerns?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:1 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What do you know about the city of Corinth? What was it famous for in Paul's day? What do we remember the church at Corinth for today? Why is it often hard to tell others about Jesus? Pray that your love for the Lord will compel you to want to share with others.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Acts 18:1-5. How many times in the Book of Acts had Paul been involved in ministry alone? Why do you think he preferred to ministry in partnership with others? What are the advantages of having others work with you in sharing the gospel?
- (b) Who did Paul meet in Corinth? Why had they left Rome? What brought them into contact with Paul? What do you learn about this couple from Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Acts 18:26?
- (c) Why did Paul work to support himself? Was that normal (1 Corinthians 9:6-12; 2 Corinthians 11:9)? Did he do this anywhere else (1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8)?
- (d) When did Paul stop doing the tent making (Acts 18:5)? What had Timothy and Silas brought that allowed this (2 Corinthians 11:7-9; Philippians 4:15-16)? What was Paul's attitude toward this gift (Philippians 4:17)? How would this have encouraged Paul?
- (e) What did Paul call his relationship with the church at Philippi (Philippians 1:3-5)? How is this related to our missions giving?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:1-5 and Philippians 1:3-5. Talk about *why* we support missionaries. How does our financial support make us partners with them? Is financial support all that we give? What are some other ways we can support our missionaries? Read over a prayer letter from one of our missionaries pray together for their needs.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Acts 18:4-8. What was Paul doing in the synagogue? How is his witnessing described (Acts 18:4-5)?
- (b) What caused Paul to depart from the synagogue? What did he do to convey God's judgment (Luke 10:10-11; Acts 13:51)?
- (c) What did he say to them (Acts 18:6)? What was he referring to (Ezekiel 33:1-11)? Why could Paul say this (Acts 20:26-27)? What does this say about our responsibility to share the gospel?
- (d) Where did this new group of believers go to meet? Who came to join them shortly afterwards? Why was this especially significant? How would this have encouraged Paul?
- (e) What did these Corinthian believers do after they believed? Is this also part of the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20)? Why would it be important for all believers?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:4-8 and Ezekiel 33:11. What is our responsibility in sharing the gospel? Will God hold us accountable? What does Ezekiel tell us about God's call to every person? What was the first sign of obedience in the lives of these Corinthian believers? Pray for boldness to tell someone about Jesus this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Acts 18:9-11. Who else provided Paul encouragement about his ministry in Corinth? What is Paul told to keep on doing? Why do you think he needed this encouragement (1 Corinthians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:1-9)?
- (b) How did Paul describe his situation in 2 Corinthians 1:8? What promises did God give to Paul to encourage him (Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 1:9; Hebrews 13:5-6)?
- (c) How is election seen in God's promise (Acts 18:10; Acts 13:48)? How did his understanding of predestination motivate him in sharing the gospel (2 Timothy 2:10)?
- (d) What did Paul learn about God from this situation (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)? Was his confidence from the fact that he would not be harmed (2 Corinthians 1:9-10)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 18:9-11; Isaiah 41:10 and Hebrews 13:5-6. Talk about God's promise to never leave us. What does this mean in daily life? How should this affect the way we face suffering and difficulties? Thank God for His promises to you.

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

- (a) Read Acts 18:12-17. How did the unbelieving Jews attempt to stop Paul and the others from sharing the gospel?
- (b) Is this the first time that Paul was accused of breaking Roman law (Acts 16:19-24; 17:6-7)?
- (c) Why did Gallio not intervene as the Jews requested? How is this an example of God's providence and protection?
- (d) What happened to Sosthenes? What was his position at this time? What happens to him eventually (1 Corinthians 1:1)? How can even the vile actions of men lead to the conversion of some?
- (e) How does God's providence encourage believers? What is our confidence in every situation (Romans 8:28)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 18:12-17 and Romans 8:28. Talk about times when you have seen God's providence in a difficult situation. How do you think Paul and the believers in Corinth were encouraged by Gallio's decision. How do you think it affected their desire to share the gospel? Pray that your eyes might be open to see the ways that God works in daily events.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 18:1-17. From what you know about the city of Corinth, can you see why Paul might need some encouragement in his sharing of the gospel? Go back through this week's lesson and list the various ways that God encouraged Paul while he was in Corinth. What are some ways that God has encouraged you? What are some ways that you need to encourage other believers around you? Pray for our worship services tomorrow that believers might encourage one another as we gather together.

DATE: September 2, 2007

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Encouragement in the Gospel

“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you...”