

ACTS 18 – Paul and His Partners

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Acts 18

April 30, 2023

Reflection & Discussion Questions

God is always moving and revealing Himself in our lives

In the big moments, but also in the less glamorous ones.

*How do you find yourself overlooking the mundane or unimportant details of your story?

*Can you think of a time that something seemingly meaningless had a lasting impact on you or others?

Paul partnered with regular people throughout his ministry

Read and discuss Acts 16:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

*What details of Lydia's life is God working through?

*How might your hometown be a part of your story you've overlooked?

*Have you seen small details from the place that you live be used by God?

Paul partnered with people in his own line of work

Read and discuss Acts 18:2-4 (NIV)

² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴ Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

*How did you end up in your line of work?

*Where might God be using you in your job?

*Are there people from work that God might be asking you to partner with?

Paul partnered with people in the neighborhood

Read and discuss Acts 18:5-8 (NIV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶ But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

⁷ Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

*How have you seen God use you in your neighborhood?

*What would it mean to look at your place in the neighborhood as divinely purposed?

*Who are the people that live around you that come to mind?

Paul was shaped and formed by many people

Read and discuss Acts 18:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

*How has your story intersected with the stories of those around you in divine partnership? What friendships have been built around the purpose of God?

*How is God challenging you to see the mundane details of your life in a new light?

*How is God speaking to you about finding and sticking with some partners?