

Crossway Life Group, Week of September 22

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Acts 18:18-28 "Growing Together"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

- The scripture is descriptive of Paul's missionary activity at the end of his second missionary journey and the beginning of his third where he focused on strengthening the churches.
- The chapter ends with the introduction of Apollos a partner in the ministry alongside Paul and the early Church and the correction, support and care he received from Pricilla and Aquilla.
- **Background:** So far throughout the book of Acts we have seen the pain and persistence of Paul's missionary activity as he shares the Gospel in synagogues and towns. Now we see him spending larger chunks of time in major cities throughout the Roman Empire and sharing the Gospel with gentiles. The church is growing and others members of the early Church are multiplying this Gospel expansion work.
- **Read Acts 18:18-28.** As you read, be mindful of the role each person is playing to contribute to God's work. What gifts are they using and how is it beneficial to the growth of the church?
- Paul spent much time strengthening the disciples (v23). Contemplate what it must have been like to be a new believer in this young new faith. What might they have been feeling? How important would the church family have been to them?
- What stood out to you about how Pricilla and Aquilla took Apollos aside?
- Do you have any other questions about the Bible passage or the sermon?

The Big Idea

- **The Big Idea is that God is always establishing His Kingdom through His Church. We get to join him as did the early Church through the use of their spiritual gifts, resources, deep and real relationships. There is a beautiful picture of discipleship that we see between Apollos, Priscilla and Aquilla.**

Application & Reflection Questions

- Why do you think Pricilla and Aquilla pursued Apollos?
 - What can we learn about hospitality here?
 - What can we learn about healthy Biblical correction from what is modeled here?
*"¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, **correcting** and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
-(2Tim3:16-17)
- What can we do to use our resources, time and gifts to assist those wanting to serve and grow in the Lord?
 - Have you ever been intentionally mentored or discipled by another believer?
- Christians are to be conduits not consumers.
 - In what ways do you see yourself as a conduit used by God?
- Apollos and many in the early Church moved around for the sake of Gospel expansion. Have you ever considered that kind of call? What feelings does it evoke in you?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Christians in the early Church had to decipher what parts of their culture and traditions stayed or went away. What ways do you allow Biblical truth to reign over cultural or traditional values you grew up with?

Serving beyond ourselves

What ways do you feel challenged to welcome the stranger from afar or come alongside a fellow believer who needs help in their faith or more intentionally participate in Gospel expansion?

Acts 18:18-28 - New International Version (NIV)

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. **19** They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. **21** But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. **22** When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

23 After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. **25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor^[a] and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. **28** For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.