

Acts 18 “Be Encouraged”

Acts 18:1-17

February 8, 2026

Acts 18:1-17

After this, he left Athens and went to Corinth, 2 where he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul came to them, 3 and since they were of the same occupation, tentmakers by trade, he stayed with them and worked. 4 He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to preaching the word and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. 6 When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, “Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 So he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

9 The Lord said to Paul in a night vision, “Don’t be afraid, but keep on speaking and don’t be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.” 11 He stayed there a year and a half, teaching the word of God among them.

12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the tribunal.

13 “This man,” they said, “is persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.”

14 As Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or of a serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you Jews. 15 But if these are questions about words, names, and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of such things.” 16 So he drove them from the tribunal. 17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but none of these things mattered to Gallio.

“Do not be afraid.”

“I am with you.”

Matthew 12:18-20

18 Here is my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. 19 He will not argue or shout, and no one will hear his voice in the streets. 20 He will not break a bruised reed, and he will not put out a smoldering wick, until he has led justice to victory.

When you think of all things Jesus could break, you begin to see the wonder in what he won't break.

Acts 18:10

“For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.”

Romans 16:3-4

3 Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life. Not only do I thank them, but so do all the Gentile churches.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- Can you recall a time when you were really tired? Is there an area of your life that is making you tired and worried right now?
- Jesus tells Paul not to be afraid in Acts 18:9, which may mean that Paul was afraid and having second thoughts. What does it mean that the Apostle Paul needed to hear this encouragement? Does that mean we need it to?
- Read Matthew 12:18-20. What is the significance of the bruised reed and smoldering wick imagery?
- Like Aquilla and Priscilla, have you ever seen God encourage you by bringing someone else into your life? How might the Church be helpful encouragement?
- Is there someone you need to encourage? Someone you might tell, “I am with you”?
- Pray for anyone in your Life Group that is feeling discouraged and that God would bring care and help.