

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 45 - Acts 18:24-28

Summary of this week's teaching: This week's passage focuses on an Egyptian Jew named Apollos. He was highly educated, passionate, and articulate. He was the poster child for religion, and he boldly proclaimed his message in Ephesus. The only problem with Apollos was that he was lacking in one critical area: a complete understanding of the Gospel of Jesus. He was well-versed in the Old Testament and instructed in John the Baptist's message, but he was missing critical information about Jesus, His resurrection, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Thankfully Priscilla and Aquilla gently disciplined him, and he went on to be a powerful disciple of Christ.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation- you thought you had all the pertinent information, but you were missing critical information about something?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 18:24-28.

1. How is Apollos described in these verses? What specific attributes are listed?
2. How do you think Apollos would be treated in today's church?
3. What lessons can we learn from Priscilla and Aquilla's gentle approach?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Why is the person of Jesus critical to a life-giving connection with God?
2. Apollos sounds like a formidable and highly productive person. Without a personal connection with Christ, did any of that matter? Why or why not?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Although Apollos was very religious, he (presumably) had not yet been saved through faith in Jesus, nor had he received the Holy Spirit. How can believers fall back into religious activity rather than living a life of faith in Jesus?
2. What lessons on faith does this week's passage teach us?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Paul disciplined Aquila and Priscilla, who in turn disciplined Apollos. Who has disciplined you, and who are you discipling?

