

Acts of the Holy Spirit - 20
Growing in Love Together
Acts 18:18-28 - Week of September 30, 2018
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant Guide

Be willing to be a beginner every single morning. Meister Eckhart

All clear-minded people should remain two things throughout their lifetimes: Curious and teachable. Roger Ebert

The unteachable man is sentenced to being taught by his own experience. The tragedy is he reaches nothing further than his own pain. Criss Jami

Happiness is always on the other side of being teachable. Shannon L. Alder

As long as you're green, you're growing. As soon as you're ripe, you start to rot. Ray Kroc

Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more. Proverbs 9:9

1. Which quote do you relate to the most and why?

Read Acts 18:12-28

2. Who has had a significant influence in your faith journey? What is it about them that inspires and convicts you?
3. In verses 24-25 we learn that Apollos was *a learned man with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures . . . and spoke with great fervor and taught Jesus accurately*. To be “learned” means broadly educated and knowledgeable. “Fervor” relates to passion and zeal. Apollos was a rare combination of head and heart. On the scale of head to heart, where do you tend to land most and why? What can we learn for our own effectiveness in ministry from Apollos?
4. *I treasure the picture of a husband and wife offering hospitality and ministering the gospel together. O that more of us would live as partners in the gospel—co-saboteurs of the kingdom of darkness, rather than frittering our years away on less noble pursuits and passions. There are so many different story-lines clamouring for our marriages—so many distractions and seductions. A marriage, just like singleness, is too precious a gift to spent on pettiness and non-intentional living. Bring more gospel-sanity to our marriages, Jesus. Rescue us... resuscitate us...*

refresh us. Scotty Smith¹ Where in your life is the gospel most alive? Where are you in need of *gospel-sanity*?

5. It's interesting to note that Priscilla and Aquila were not relatives of Apollos or even long-time friends. Yet each one took a risk. The risk of transparency, honesty and accountability. By God's grace it paid off, the relationship proved to be loving and life giving. This is true of all relationships be they be a BFF, child, parent, pastor or neighbour. But the risk of truth and grace is exactly what we often avoid. We'd rather hide, pretend, keep things superficial for fear of being offended or offending. But without grace and truth our relationships fail to be loving and life giving. This is true for Life Groups too: *When small groups shift from mutual accountability to vague sharing, they loose power . . . they die.*²
- Have you ever experienced this?
 - What can be done to combat this?
 - How did Lori and Jonathan's story that they shared Sunday impact you?
 - How might the story of what God is doing in you these days help others?

Read Revelation 2:1-5

6. From Sunday's sermon: *Revelation 2:1-5 was written some years after Priscilla, Aquila, Apollos, and Paul (Acts 19) landed in Ephesus to plant a church. It was written to an established church, to believers who had some years of experience in the faith.*

What if the greatest threat to our faith is institutionalization? The threat of becoming too comfortable and confident in our doctrines and programs. That though we read our bibles and pray, we love our routines more than our Jesus. It's so easy to go through motions. Growing more in love with Jesus and the world he died for is really what Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos' journey was all about. It's what our journey is all about too.

- Can you identify with what happened to the Ephesian believers?
- How are you guarding your heart against growing cold?
- How can we be praying for you?

¹ Scotty Smith, A Prayer About Staying Teachable, (The Gospel Coalition, July 12, 2010)

² John Ortberg, Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them, (Zondervan, 2003) p 174