

Bible Stories for Adults

Paul's Third Missionary Journey - Part 1

Acts 19

Opening

Gathering: What types of things happen from when someone hears the gospel until they accept it in faith?

Today's Focus: Paul built on a foundation laid by Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus while Apollos built on Paul's foundation in Corinth.

Key Verses: *Paul has convinced...large numbers of people...in practically the whole province of Asia.*
Acts 19:26

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The First Journey (*Acts 13-14*)

Where did Paul go on his first missionary journey?

Acts 13:4-6a, 13-14; 14:1, 6

How were they received in these places?

Acts 13:50; 14:4-5, 19

Did this opposition convince them to stop?

Acts 13:51-52; 14:6-7, 20-21a

Did the fierce opposition at least keep them out of those towns?

Acts 14:21b-23

Beginning The Second Journey (*Acts 15:36-16:10*)

Why did Paul go on a second missionary journey?

Acts 15:36

What path did Paul take on this journey to strengthen the churches?

Acts 15:41-16:1

After revisiting the towns in Galatia, did Paul have an itinerary of places to go?

Acts 16:6-9

Who joined Paul, Silas and Timothy in Troas?

Acts 16:10

A Spectrum in Philippi (*Acts 16:11-40*)

Where did they go to follow their call in Macedonia?

Acts 16:11-12

Who became the first new Christian in Europe?

Acts 16:14

Were only wealthy people in Philippi reached by Paul's outreach?

Acts 16:16-18

How were Paul and Silas thanked for setting this girl free from the demon?

Acts 16:19, 23

How did God use this mistreatment of His servants to further His cause?

Acts 16:26, 29-30, 33

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Down the *Via Egnatia* (Acts 17:1-15)

Where did they go after 2 months in Philippi?

Acts 17:1

Note: We changed back to *they* until Acts 20:5 (Paul's return from Third Journey)

Luke apparently stayed in Philippi and rejoined Paul at end of his Third Journey

How long was Paul in Thessalonica and why?

Acts 17:2, 5, 9

Where did Paul and Silas go after being forced out of Thessalonica, and how were they received?

Acts 17:10-11

Did Paul stay longer with these people of *more noble character* who received the gospel eagerly?

Acts 17:13, 15

Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

How were Paul and the gospel received in the world's center of philosophy?

Acts 17:17, 19

How did Paul attempt to explain the gospel in terms the Athenians would understand?

Acts 17:22-23

Did the Council have any problem with anything he said?

Acts 17:32-34a

Why did Paul leave Athens even though he had open ears to his message?

Acts 17:21

Corinth (Acts 18:1-17)

Where did Paul go to find people who needed the gospel?

Acts 18:1

Did Paul take the rabbi approach of earning his own keep rather than being paid by his students?

Acts 18:2-5

Why was he able to devote himself full-time to preaching when Silas and Timothy arrived?

2 Corinthians 11:9

Why was Paul able to stay in Corinth so long even when he was strongly opposed by the Jews?

Acts 18:6-11

What example did Luke give us of how God protected Paul as He had promised?

Acts 18:12-16

How did this also protect the new church in Corinth from further attacks?

Acts 18:17

Ending the Second Journey (Acts 18:18-22)

How did Paul specially dedicate himself to the Lord during his last weeks or months in Corinth?

Acts 18:18

How did God use Aquila and Priscilla to help spread His gospel?

Acts 18:19-21

Did Paul go straight to Antioch from Ephesus to complete his second journey?

Acts 18:22

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Apollos (Acts 18:23-25)

How did Paul begin his third journey?

Acts 18:23

What new missionary started working during this time that Paul was in Antioch and Galatia?

Acts 18:24-25

Alexandria - Second largest city in Roman empire, More Jews than elsewhere outside Palestine
Alexandrian Jews found inner meanings to every recorded event in Scripture

Ephesus - Capital of Asia, Large and wealthy - Called the *Treasure House of Asia*

Seat of Pan-Ionian Games, Asylum for criminals, Center of magic and superstition

Apollos Waters (Acts 18:26-28)

How did Apollos learn the message of salvation to complete the stories he knew about Jesus?

Acts 18:26

With Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, where could Apollos be more effective?

Acts 18:27-28

How effective was Apollos in this wicked city?

1 Corinthians 1:11-15

How did Paul make it clear that he and Apollos were on the same team and not competitors?

1 Corinthians 3:4-9

Incomplete Christians (Acts 19:1-7)

Where did Paul go on his third journey after Galatia and who did he meet as he arrived?

Acts 19:1-3

Why was John's baptism incomplete?

Acts 19:4

What did these incomplete Christians do after hearing Paul's message of Jesus' gospel?

Acts 19:5-7

Luke records the Spirit to 4 groups: Jews-2, Samaritans-8, Gentiles-10, Incomplete Christians-19

Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-20)

With a church developed by Aquila and Priscilla, did Paul spend his time teaching that church?

Acts 19:8

How was he received by the Jews?

Acts 19:9-10

How effective was Paul during this time?

Acts 19:11-12

How were Paul's extraordinary powers received in this center of magic?

Acts 19:13

How did God make it clear that the name of Jesus wasn't just a new magic spell?

Acts 19:14-16

How did people respond when they heard that Jesus' name was too powerful for casual use?

Acts 19:17-20

Ephesian Letters - Tiny scrolls with magical spells worn on necklace to bring success in life

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Time to Leave (*Acts 19:21-22*)

- After 3 months in the Ephesus synagogue and 2 years in the lecture hall, what did Paul decide?
Acts 19:21-22
- Besides checking up on things, what did Paul intend to do by passing through Greece?
1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (also Romans 15:26)
- After staying in the Ephesus area *a little longer*, how long did Paul spend in Ephesus total?
Acts 20:31

Artists of Artemis (*Acts 19:23-41*)

- What incident led to Paul leaving Ephesus?
Acts 19:23-27
- Artemis (Diana in Latin)* - Multibreasted fertility goddess, statue fell from sky (likely a meteorite)
Temple of Artemis - One of the *Seven Wonders of the World*, 425' L x 220' W x 60' T
127 marble pillars, each given by a king; Altar by greatest Greek sculptor, Praxiteles
- What did the rest of the crafts union think about this threat?
Acts 19:28-29
- Did Paul find a place to hide so he wouldn't be lynched by this wild mob?
Acts 19:30-31
- How organized was the crowd?
Acts 19:32-34
- Who finally stood up and stopped the mayhem?
Acts 19:35-37
- What did the city clerk think should be done about the threat to the souvenir business?
Acts 19:38-39
- Did the city clerk's efforts have any effect on the mob?
Acts 19:40-41
- Did Paul immediately leave town because of the opposition?
Acts 20:1

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I helped others learn God's truths?
(*Acts 18:24-26; Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-9; Proverbs 1:8-9; Matthew 13:52*)
2. Who has helped me learn God's truths?
(*Acts 19:1-7; Exodus 35:34; Neh. 8:1-8; Isaiah 28:26; 48:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; James 3:1*)
3. How has learning God's truths made me more effective for God?
(*Acts 18:24-28; Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:1-18; 5:11-14; 6:20-23; Hebrews 5:11-14*)
4. When have I been jealous of God's effective work through others?
(*Acts 19:11-20; 1 Corinthians 1:11-17; 3:1-11; Numbers 12; 16-17; 1 Samuel 18:5-9, 28-29*)
5. When have I let my personal desires interfere with God's work?
(*Acts 19:23-41; Numbers 22:21-35; 1 Kings 22:4-9; Matthew 23:1-7, 13-15; Luke 9:59-62*)