

APOLLOS

Acts 18:18-22

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos

Key-location: Ephesus

Key-repetitions:

- Facts about Apollos: an eloquent speaker (Ac 18:24); knew the Scriptures (Ac 18:24); spoke boldly and enthusiastically (Ac 18:25-26); knowledge incomplete about Jesus (Ac 18:25); instructed by Priscilla and Aquila (Ac 18:26); helped believers in Achaia (Ac 18:27); refuted the Jews in public debate (Ac 18:28).

Key-attitudes:

- Priscilla and Aquila's confidence when they taught Apollos.
- Positive attitude about Apollos.
- Apollos' boldness and enthusiasm when he spoke.

Initial-situation:

Accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila, Paul left Corinth and traveled to Ephesus. Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus and traveled to Antioch of Syria, ending his second missionary journey.

Initial-problem:

Apollos came to Ephesus. Apollos was an eloquent speaker who had a sound knowledge of the Scriptures. However, Apollos only knew about the baptism spoken about by John the Baptist.

Final-situation:

Apollos went to Achaia in southern Greece. Apollos was a great help to the believers there. He forcefully refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

BIBLE STORY

After a short visit to Ephesus, Paul traveled to Antioch of Syria (Ac 18:22).

Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos came to the city of Ephesus. Apollos was an eloquent speaker who had a sound knowledge of the Scriptures. Apollos was instructed in the Way of the Lord, and he spoke boldly and enthusiastically. Apollos taught about Jesus accurately; however, Apollos only knew about the baptism performed by John the Baptist. Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos speak boldly in the synagogue. Priscilla and

Aquila invited Apollos to their home and gave him a better understanding of God's way (Ac 18:24-26).

Apollos went to Achaia in southern Greece. Apollos' brothers-in-Christ encouraged him and wrote to the disciples in Greece to welcome him. Apollos was a great help to the believers there, for he forcefully refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ (Ac 18:27-28).

Apollos was at Corinth when Paul returned to Ephesus.

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of person was Apollos?
2. What kind of people were Priscilla and Aquila?
3. How did Priscilla and Aquila react to Apollos, who had incomplete knowledge about Jesus, but still spoke about him?
4. Have you experienced being strong in enthusiasm but weak in knowledge?
5. Who most helped you when you had limited spiritual knowledge?
6. How can you be like:
 - Apollos, and learn from those who have greater knowledge than you?
 - Priscilla and Aquila and teach others?
7. How does our church balance evangelism with teaching and equipping believers?
8. How could we use our homes to either evangelize or strengthen believers?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Believers with incomplete knowledge need instruction.** Apollos had an incomplete knowledge about Jesus and was instructed by Priscilla and Aquila (Ac 18:25-26). In Ephesus, Paul found twelve believers who had insufficient knowledge, knowing only the teachings of John the Baptist. Paul gave them further instructions (Ac 19:1-7).
2. **Bible teachers with incomplete spiritual knowledge need to be instructed and not discouraged.** The only baptism that Apollos knew about was the baptism practiced by John the Baptist. He taught with enthusiasm and was accurate in what he knew (Ac 18:25). Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos to their home and gave him a better understanding about the Way of God (Ac 18:26). It appears that he taught that Jesus was the expected Messiah; however, he didn't know anything about Jesus' death and resurrection, nor anything about the Holy Spirit.

3. **Logic can be a powerful tool in communicating spiritual truths.** Apollos was a scholar, orator, and debater. God used those gifts to strengthen the church. Apollos used the abilities of logic and debate to convince many in Greece of the truth of the gospel (Ac 18:27-28).
4. **Christian couples can work together in ministry.** Priscilla and Aquila invited Apollos to their home and gave him a better understanding of God' Way (Ac 18:24-26). The Bible always mentions Priscilla and Aquila together as a couple (Ac 18:2, 18, 26; Rom 16:3; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Interactive Sharing:

Invite listeners to share in small groups:

- About the person or people who served as a Priscilla or Aquila in their lives and helped them grow spiritually.
- In the area that they are like Apollos and need more instruction.
- In the way they could be a Priscilla or Aquila and give instruction to others.