
Application Guide: Acts 18

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Share the story of a time when someone insulted you. How did it make you feel? How did you respond to the insult?

- b. Share the story of a time when you insulted someone else. Why did you insult them? How did the person you insulted respond to you? What would you do differently now?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: As was his custom, Paul went to the synagogue to preach when he arrived in Corinth. When the Jews rejected him he told them, “Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles” (vs. 6).

How do you think Paul got to be so strong and take the rejection so well? Elijah ran and hid when he found out Jezebel hated him and wanted to kill him after his victory at Mt Carmel. What do you think the difference is?

Do you think we all have times when we are strong and times when we cower or run away? What can help you to stand strong more often?

In this chapter the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and said, “Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me” (vs. 10). How do you think this vision made Paul feel? Do you think he felt relieved to know that he wouldn’t be beaten and thrown in prison in that city? Why do you think Jesus wanted to reassure Paul of this? Do you think Paul had possibly been getting discouraged and was thinking about going home?



Now it seems that Paul has found his niche—preaching to the Gentiles. And yet, now that this is his new focus, the leader of the synagogue gives his heart to Jesus. Somehow Paul focused on his new task without ignoring his initial mission.

Is there a way that you could be more focused in what you do to witness to or help others?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one or both:

- a. Make a list of all the spiritual activities you are engaged in. Is it too much or not enough? Try to focus on one or two outreach projects and work toward excelling at them over the next few weeks.
- b. Think of an area in your life where you feel weak. Think of two things that could make you stronger in this area. Find a way to give yourself a reminder three times per day to be stronger in this area. Structure the two things you believe will help you to fit into this plan.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray for someone you know that is involved in ministry. Pray for one specific aspect of their ministry that you would like to see God bless. Pray for Jesus to show you how you could be more supportive of this ministry.
- b. Ask for God to give you more energy and passion for ministry. Ask Him to help you focus in on one or two particular areas of ministry.

5. Outreach Idea

Write a letter of thanks and encouragement for everyone in your church that ministers to you. This could include your pastor, Sabbath school leader, deacons, custodian, greeters, elders, etc.

