



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 26:
"God is in Control"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 18:1-21

1. Why might Claudius (Emperor of the Roman Empire at the time) have forced all Jews to leave Rome (*Acts 18:2*)? Do you think it was easy for Aquila and Priscilla to trust that God was in control of their circumstances?
2. Who were Aquila and Priscilla (Prisca; *1 Corinthians 16:19*) How did God use them to minister in Ephesus (*Acts 18:24-26*)? Do you believe that God sovereignly caused Aquila and Priscilla to move in order that He might use them more effectively?
3. Even though Paul experienced rejection in his evangelism (*Acts 18:6*), who was ultimately in control of the results of his efforts (*Acts 18:10*)? What was the result of the Jews' rejection of Paul's message in *Acts 18:6* (see also *Acts 13:46*)?
4. How would God's words to Paul in *Acts 18:9-10* have been an encouragement to you? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is present with you as you serve Him and further the Kingdom of God (*Matthew 28:20*)? Why or why not?

5. Do you believe that God was in control of Paul's difficult circumstances in *Acts 18:12-17*? Is it difficult for you to trust that God is in control of the trials and difficulties that you experience in your life? Why or why not (*Romans 8:28*)?

6. Why do you think Paul refused to stay in Ephesus when the Christians there requested that he stay (*Acts 18:20*)? How does his response of "if God wills" in *Acts 18:21* demonstrate Paul's trust in the sovereignty of God (*James 4:13-16*)?

7. How does Paul's "if God wills" perspective also demonstrate humility? What area of your life (finances, relationships, health, etc.) do you struggle to embrace an "if God wills" perspective? What can you do to grow in your trust in God's sovereignty?

Memory Verses:

"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. (10) For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.'"
(Acts 18:9-10, NIV)