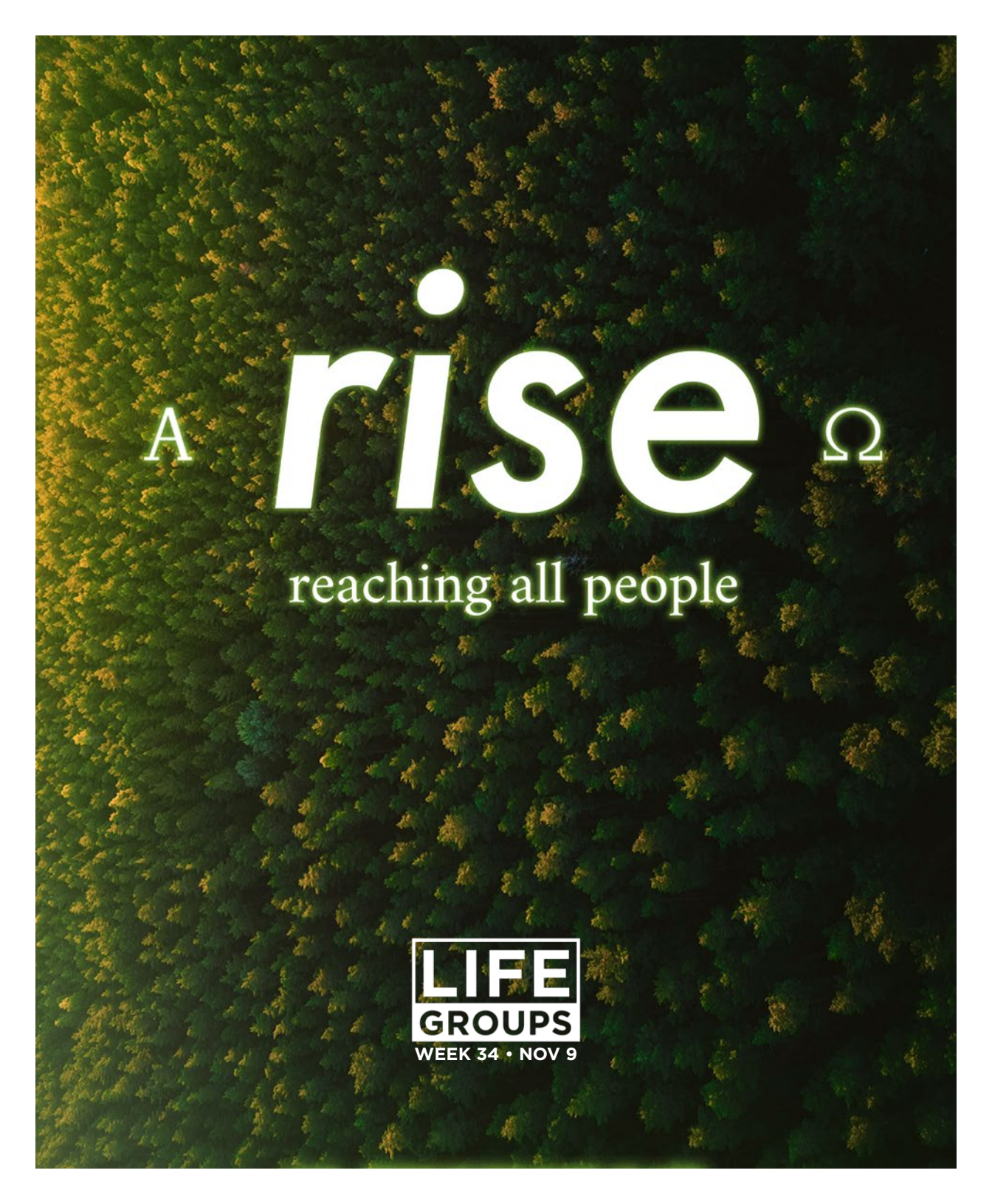




A *rise* Ω

reaching all people



WEEK 34 • NOV 9

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What has been your favorite road trip or vacation?

BACKGROUND

After Gallio's defense of Paul from the Jewish leaders and members of the synagogue in Corinth, Paul spent some 18 to 24 months ministering to new believers in Corinth. Paul decided to return to his home Church in Antioch, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchreae, Corinth's port city, Paul cuts his hair to make a vow, likely a sign of religious commitment or a Nazirite vow.

Upon arriving in Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there while he went into the synagogue to reason with the Jews. Although they invited Paul to stay longer, he declined, promising to return if it is God's will. He lands in Caesarea, going up to Jerusalem to complete his vow. He greets and reports to the believers there.

We are then introduced to Apollos, a Greek Jew from Alexandria, described as an eloquent speaker and knowledgeable in the Scriptures. He exhibited a strong commitment and provided accurate instruction concerning the Messiah, although his knowledge was limited to John's message of repentance through baptism. Priscilla and Aquila heard him in the synagogue and recognized that Apollos lacked the complete understanding of the Christian message. They quietly took Apollos aside and explained the way of God more accurately. With their mentorship, Apollos continued his travels to confront Jews in powerful public debate and is warmly received by fellow believers.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Acts 18:26

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

READ: Acts 18:18-28



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What can we learn from Paul's bi-vocational approach to his ministry in Corinth?
2. What is meant by Apollos being *eloquent. . . mighty in the Scriptures* (v. 24), *though he knew only the baptism of John* (v. 25b)? How did his message change after Priscilla and Aquila mentored him (v. 26)?
3. How do we see the role of both Paul and Apollos in planting and watering the Gospel as later described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:1-6?



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. How does the relationship between Paul, Aquila and Priscilla demonstrate the importance of Christian fellowship?
2. How do we discern God's will in our lives, as Paul does when he promises to return to Ephesus if God wills?
3. What does this chapter teach us about the need for both knowledge and Spirit-filled fervor in our faith?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

Numerous commentators refer to the vow Paul made in Acts 18:18 as a Nazarite vow. That vow is defined in Numbers 6:1-21. How might the following verses enhance or add meaning to our understanding of Paul's vow:

- 2 Corinthians 1:19-20
- Psalm 56:12-13
- Jonah 2:9

In the Kings James translation of Acts 18:21, it also mentions a feast that Paul must attend in Jerusalem. How might that relate to his vow?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. How does the relationship between teaching and faith development manifest in this chapter? How does it apply to our own spiritual growth?
2. How does this chapter encourage us to be active participants in nurturing our Christian communities?
3. In what ways can you engage in respectful and effective dialogue with those who have different beliefs about Jesus?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 21:14b (NKJV)

"The will of the Lord be done."

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)