

A *rise* Ω

reaching all people



WEEK 35 • NOV 16

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Do you prefer to have all the information before doing something new or figure it out as you go?

BACKGROUND

In Acts 18, Paul first met Aquila, a fellow tent-maker, and Aquila's wife, Priscilla. He stayed there in Corinth with them for 18 months before starting on his journey to Syria. He sailed east, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him. When they arrived at Ephesus, Paul continued his journey without them, saying *"I will return to you if God wills"* (v. 21). He sailed east even further, all the way back to Caesarea, near Jerusalem. From there he proceeded north to Syria and east *through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples* (v. 23), making a full loop that was leading him back to Ephesus.

Meanwhile in Ephesus, there was a Jew named Apollos who had come from Egypt. *Being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John* (Acts 18:25). He had some understanding of who Jesus was and what He had done, but was missing the core concept of baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Since Priscilla and Aquila were still in Ephesus, they heard Apollos teaching and saw that he was missing key details of the Gospel. They talked with Apollos privately to teach him what he did not yet understand, and he quickly proceeded to use his new found understanding to prove that Jesus was the Christ through the Scriptures.

Apollos then traveled west from Ephesus to Corinth. But Paul, arriving back in Ephesus, found a group of disciples who were not so different from Apollos. It is possible that Apollos had even discipled these people, and it was clear that Paul needed to complete their understanding of the Gospel.

REVIEW

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



KEY VERSES: Acts 19:5-6

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

READ: Acts 19:1-7



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

1. How is the situation with these disciples similar to Apollos in Acts 18:24-28?
2. What is the difference between John's baptism and baptism that is in Jesus' name?
3. How did the disciples respond to Paul's teaching and what was the result?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

Review the following verses and compare John's baptism to Christian baptism:

- Mark 1:1-8
- John 1:29-34
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:38-41



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

1. In verse 2, Paul uses the phrase *when you believed*. What did the disciples believe in?
2. Why had the disciples not received the Holy Spirit? Why were they baptized a second time?
3. How does the Holy Spirit manifest Himself today? Is it different from how He worked back then?



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. Is there someone in your life who has an incomplete understanding of Jesus? How can you help them understand what they need to know?
2. Where in your life do you need to rely on the supernatural and life-changing power of the Holy Spirit? How might that affect the lives of those around you?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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