

# Unfinished Week 9

## The Power of Encouragement

Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

### Intro:

- What was helpful or challenging for you in this week's message and why?
  
- Share something from this past week that was a real encouragement to you.

### Read Acts Chapter 18:1-22

### Group Questions:

1. How do you respond when discouragement sets in? How do you normally respond to tough situations?
2. What aspects of our culture discourage you and how can you experience God's encouragement in the midst of them?
3. What encouragement and what difficulties does Paul experience in Corinth?
4. If you were Paul, how would you have felt when you received Jesus' message (Vs. 9-10)?
5. When has the Lord given you confidence to stay in a situation even though it was difficult?
6. Who have been your encouragers, mentors, or guides in the faith, like Priscilla and Aquila, and in what ways did they help you?
7. Share a way a friend, spiritual fruit, God's word or difficulties have been an encouragement to you and how you have seen God work in a specific situation in your life?

**Pray as a Group – Review the list below and pray your group can live as an encouragement to others.**

### To receive encouragement:

1. Look around, put yourself out there, make friends, and find community. (Aquila/Priscilla)
2. Talk to old friends and allow them to speak encouragement into your life. (Silas/Timothy)
3. Pay attention to how God is working around you and rejoice. Don't become so focused on your own pity-party that you miss the positive things going on around you. Look for the good in life. (Crispus, his family, and other Corinthians)
4. Be diligent in seeking God. Often God speaks, but we're not listening. (Paul's vision)
5. Be patient in trials.

**To give encouragement:** In addition to receiving encouragement, it is crucial that we, as followers of Christ, encourage others as well. Here are some ways you can encourage others.

1. Be a friend. Look for new people or people in need of help and step up. (Aquila/Priscilla)
2. Reach out to old friends, send a card or a gift. (Silas/Timothy)
3. Be hospitable. (Titius Justus)
4. Share your faith. (Paul sharing with Crispus and his family)
5. Pray with and for others and share God's insights in your life. (Paul's word from God)