

Living Stones — Priscilla and Aquila Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. How many different places have you lived in your life?
2. Who is one of your most reliable friends?

Read the following passages: Acts 18:1-4, 9-11, 18-28; Romans 16:3-4.

After Priscilla and Aquila were forced out of Rome, they had a serendipitous encounter with Paul in Corinth. That connection became a critical component in the birth of a new church. Priscilla and Aquila are a powerful example of what it looks like to be a spiritual mother and father. They helped Paul when he needed a job and somewhere to stay. They provided moral stability in a young church living in a sea of immorality. They mentored the tremendously gifted young leader, Apollos. And they made great sacrifices that helped scores of Gentile churches. Even if we wouldn't yet consider ourselves to be spiritual mothers or fathers, we can all be a help to somebody else.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Priscilla and Aquila experienced persecution in Rome, which is roughly 2,500 miles away from Jerusalem. According to the Roman historian Suetonius, that persecution was related to disturbances connected with a figure called "Chrestus," a reference to Jesus Christ. What does that imply about the expansion of the early church? Have you ever experienced any kind of negative treatment because of your commitment to Jesus? Explain.
2. Priscilla and Aquila did not want to leave Rome, but their relocation to Corinth led to a critical connection. What can we do to keep our hearts open to the purposes of God even when we don't like our circumstances? Generally speaking, how would you describe your attitude toward your current circumstances? Are you paying attention to how God is moving in your current circumstances? Explain.
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how stable does your life feel right now? What relationships help bring a sense of stability to you? In what parts of your life would you like to have greater stability? Explain.
4. What are some ways you are giving what you have to somebody else? Are there any additional ways you can serve somebody else in this season of your life?
5. In what ways is your character being tested the most right now?
6. How would you define wisdom? Are there any areas in your life in which you are feeling the need for greater wisdom? Explain. What can we do to grow in wisdom?

7. There are many places in the New Testament that call us to lay down, sacrifice, or die to some aspect of our old life. (See, for example, Matthew 16:24-25; John 12:24; Romans 6:3-4; 12:1; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:5-11.) What are some ways you need to “die” in this season of your life so that you can walk in the life that God intends for you?

Pray