

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE WORD

Reading and Listening Session
Reflections on Acts 18



With Sister Paulette Morrison
June 12, 2022

Our Sunday Evening Reading & Listening Session on June 12, 2022, was a deeply enriching experience, themed around 'Discover the Power of the Word.' We journeyed through selected verses from **Acts 18 (ESV)**, tracing the impactful ministry of Paul and the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit. This article serves as a recap and reflection on the key insights gleaned from our time together.

Paul's Journey to Corinth and Ministry Partnership

The session began with verses from **Acts 18:1-2**, setting the scene of Paul's departure from Athens and arrival in Corinth. Here, he encountered Aquila and Priscilla, Jewish tentmakers recently exiled from Rome. This meeting was more than just a chance encounter; it was a divinely orchestrated partnership that would prove crucial to Paul's ministry. We reflected on **The Necessity of an Occupation**, recognising the dignity of labour and how God can use our skills and trades to further His kingdom.

Our sisters, Sis. Sonia Ellis, Min. Marjorie Morrison, and Sis. Paulette Morison offered insightful commentary on how even in seemingly secular work, we can embody the love of Christ and be witnesses to His grace.

Preaching, Opposition, and Divine Encouragement

The narrative progressed with **Acts 18:4-6**, highlighting Paul's dedication to preaching in the synagogue every Sabbath. Despite facing opposition and blasphemy, Paul remained steadfast, proclaiming that Salvation is for All. This segment prompted discussions around **Constrained by the Word**, examining the compelling force of the Gospel that drives believers to share their faith, even in the face of adversity. It also shed light on **Religious Indifference**, a challenge Paul faced then and we continue to encounter today.

Acts 18:9-10 provided a powerful moment of encouragement. The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, saying, *"Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."* This passage emphasized **The Lord's Gentle Rebuke** and **The Lord's Strong Mandate**, reminding us that God's presence and

promise are sufficient to overcome fear and propel us forward in ministry. **Be Not Afraid**, a phrase that echoes throughout Scripture, became a central theme, urging us to trust in God's protection and provision.

This section underscored the topic of **The Holy Spirit Told**, which led to discussions about listening for God's voice, and trusting in His plans for our lives.

From Corinth to Ephesus: A Vow and a New Beginning

We then explored **Acts 18:12, 14-19**, focusing on the legal challenges Paul faced and his subsequent departure from Corinth. His journey to Ephesus, marked by **Paul's Vow** (the specifics of which are not detailed but suggest a commitment to God), signaled a new phase in his ministry. This led to a discussion on **Variety in Christian Service**, recognizing that God uses individuals in diverse ways and at different stages of their lives.

The Ministry of Apollos: A Shining Star

Finally, we examined **Acts 18:24-25, 27-28**, which introduces Apollos, a gifted and eloquent speaker who fervently taught about Jesus. Though initially lacking full understanding, Apollos was further instructed by Aquila and Priscilla, demonstrating the importance of mentorship and ongoing learning. This segment highlighted **A Shining Star for Christ**, recognising the potential in each believer to powerfully impact the world for God's glory. **Apollos Preaches at Ephesus** reminds us that the word of God is a powerful tool, and it is important to understand it fully before we preach. **Salvation at the Chief Ruler's House** also reminds us that no matter what your social status, salvation is available to all.

The discussion underscored the topic of **The City of Corinth**, and how even places with challenging reputations can be reached with the love and word of God.

Conclusion

Our 'Discover the Power of the Word' session was a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of Scripture, the importance of perseverance in ministry, and the diverse ways God uses individuals to advance His kingdom. Let us continue to meditate on these truths and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek to live out our faith in word and deed. A special thanks to Sis. Sonia Ellis, Min. Marjorie Morrison, and Sis. Paulette Morison for their contributions to our understanding.