



Title: Growing Disciples

Text: Acts 18:23–19:10

CONTEXT |

These verses begin the account of Paul's 3rd missionary journey. During this trip he visits established churches to strengthen them in their faith. Before Luke expounds upon what happened through Paul's ministry in Ephesus he details an important event that took place through the ministry of Priscilla and Aquila, who he left there at the end of his second trip. They were the tentmaking couple he worked with in Corinth, and presumably disciples. Their ministry and Paul's follow-up ministry in Ephesus are a great picture of biblical discipleship.

MAIN IDEA |

We mature as disciples by the knowledge of Jesus through His Word.

KEY VERSE |

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.

Acts 18:26 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- Can you tell if a person is saved? Full of the Spirit? If so how?
- How does this passage encourage you in making disciples?
- What are some things essential to growth as a disciple of Jesus?
- How do you define discipleship?
- Who has helped to disciple you?
- Was there a plan? When did you meet? Where? Did you use any kind of curriculum?
- Is there anything else you learned from this passage that is helpful to you as a disciple or disciple-maker?
- **Pray** for the church universal to be what Jesus intends in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Pray** for a movement of multiplying discipleship among the Arain in Pakistan where there are 0 known believers. (see next page)

EXPLANATION |

Apollos was a well-trained and passionate preacher of the Scriptures. He was from Alexandria where the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) originated, and home to one of the largest libraries of the day. He preached a message of repentance like John the Baptist and proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah from the Scriptures, but he didn't fully understand the gospel until a couple of tentmakers, disciples and planted in Ephesus by Paul, graciously shared with him. Then, he went to Corinth with a recommendation from the church at Ephesus where he had a fruitful ministry.

Similar to Apollos a group of people who were trying to walk with God based on what they knew were not saved until Paul shared the gospel with them and they received the Holy Spirit. Paul stayed to teach disciples in Ephesus everyday for two years.

Being a disciple of Jesus requires that we know the Truth and respond in faith. This is a rewarding process that takes time and effort.

11 — Arain in Pakistan



Photo: Imran Ali Arain



Population	10,888,000	
Language	Punjabi, Western	
Religion	Islam	
Est. Christians*	0.0%	0
Movement	None Reported	
Written Scripture	Complete Bible	
Oral Scripture	None	
Workers Needed**	218	

* From census reports, etc ** for 1 worker per 50,000

Arain in Pakistan

The Arain are Muslims of Arab origin who migrated to the subcontinent with Muhammad Bin Qasim and then did not return due to fear of persecution by the rulers in Damascus. When the British wanted land developed in the Punjab after its annexation, Arain were brought in to cultivate land around the cities. The Arain are honored for their hard work, frugality and sense of discipline.

Ministry Obstacles

Pakistan, meaning “land of the pure,” sees itself as a Muslim country. So Arain families are shamed in their communities when individual family members become Christian.

Outreach Opportunities

Pray for the widespread use of smartphones and social media to provide gateways for the gospel to bypass barriers of shame and lead to family discussion. Pray for Arain clans to experience God’s blessing through a gospel movement of family Bible studies.

Pray for the followers of Christ

There are no known believers within the large Arain community. Pray for laborers to have wisdom in applying the pattern Jesus gave in Matt 10 and Luke 10 for blessing Arain households.

Pray for the entire people group

Pray for Arain families to be drawn to Jesus the Messiah (called Isa al Masih in the Qur’an), to have dreams and visions about him, and to study the Bible to find out more about this man. Pray for a gospel movement of Arain families experiencing God’s blessing to overflow and bless many neighboring people groups.

Scripture focus

“God has granted to the Gentiles [nations] also the repentance that leads to life.” Acts 11:18