


Part 39 | **3 Ways to Be Encouraged**

Acts 18:1-17

We find encouragement from **EACH OTHER**, (v. 1-3)

 **find your people**

contribute & initiate

from pursuing God's **MISSION** together, (v. 4-8)

it's often hard v. 6

 **you don't need to go far** v. 7-8

and from **JESUS HIMSELF** as we do!

"the whole of every moment" v. 10 (Matthew 28:19-20)

he keeps his promises Psalm 145:13; Heb. 10:23



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!

Text **"CONVERSATION"** to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.

You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **"Pray for..."** followed by your request.

Gospel Conversations

Part of our **Enduring Reach** vision is:

*By 2030 the people of
Wawasee Bible will engage in
10,000 Gospel Conversations*

So what is a "Gospel Conversation"?

First of all, by 10,000 we do not mean 10,000 people, but *conversations*.

A Gospel Conversation is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with someone in need of knowing of his love and grace.

A conversation that points to Jesus as the hero and gives testimony to his grace, as well as our own need for it, counts as a Gospel Conversation.

**Here's three (of many!)
types of Gospel Conversations:**

1. I share with someone what Jesus is doing in my life *today*. Maybe something good, maybe bringing me through a hard time, maybe a point from Sunday's message that hit me, etc.
2. I share with someone my story of putting my faith in Christ.
3. I share the truth of the Gospel, and encourage them to believe it themselves.

Remember the key is to love. **We're loved by Jesus, and so we're sent by Jesus to love others and invite them to follow him with us.**

We'll share more soon, including some ideas to help you spark Gospel Conversations with the people God has sent *you* to!



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. Which historical time period would you most like to visit?
2. If you could have any view from your back porch, what would it be?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

1. Jesus' message to Paul in this week's passage was, "Do not be afraid," which is a very timely message for us today. How have the things you are afraid of or are concerned/worried about changed over the years?
2. This weekend Pastor Josh noted that one of the ways God encouraged Paul —and encourages us—is through other Christians. And we should note that Paul was active in seeking people out! It's easy to sit back and wait for people to befriend us, but we're also called to contribute to and *initiate* community and friendship ourselves. It usually when we contribute (and not simply consume) that we're most encouraged. Study **Romans 12:9-13**. What are ways we can *contribute* and *initiate* relationship with one another?

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. **ROMANS 12:9-13 (NLT)**

- Of the things you noted above, which one seems like the biggest one (in your mind) as it relates to *seeking out friendship* and *being a good friend* to other Christians in our church?
- What's the danger if you're not actively pursuing friendship? If you only receive, but never contribute and initiate? — What's at risk for you? What's at risk for others?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...



1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? Am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What is the fruit of the Spirit in my life?



2 | **Responding To God.** Am I worshiping Jesus or something else? Am I talking and listening to God regularly? Am I repenting of my sin?



3 | **Receiving From Others.** How am I in community with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How am I *contributing to and initiating* community with other Christians in our church or just consuming?



5 | **Going Out on Mission.** How am I regularly moving out toward those far from God, loving them and sharing God's Story and my own story?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 18:8-10 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁸ **Crispus**, the ruler of the **synagogue**, **believed** in the **Lord**, together with his **entire household**. And **many** of the **Corinthians hearing Paul**

believed and were **baptized**.

⁹ And the **Lord** **said** to **Paul** one **night** in a vision, "Do not be

afraid, but go on **speaking** and do not be **silent**,

¹⁰ 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**."

K Y I H R P A U L L P R
O C C T V S I L E N T U
S Z I C R I S P U S K R
N S T N I G H T T P H U
A S Y N A G O G U E A L
T R P B I B U E A A R E
T P A E M A S N H K M R
A E F L A P E T E I D A
C O R I N T H I A N S V
K P A E Y I O R R G A L
E L I V N Z L E I L I T
Z E D E Z E D K N H D S
L O R D O D R L G S P R

3. Another way God encourages us is when we get busy doing the mission he's given us alongside other Christians. — "We're sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us." — Throughout the Book of Acts, we have seen that Paul had a calling to have conversations with people and tell them they didn't have to be spiritually lost. As a result he endured a tremendous amount of conflict, pain and suffering living out this calling. But he knew from personal experience the difference between being lost and being found by Jesus. **Read Luke 15:1-10.** Jesus tells two stories that give us some perspective on his view of spiritually lost people and might motivate us to go to those far from God, even when it's painful.

- What similarities do you see in these stories?
- What lessons do these stories teach us about those who are spiritually lost and God's attitude toward them?
- What do **Luke 19:10** and **2 Peter 3:9** add to your understanding of how God wants us to view those who are spiritually lost?

4. In the message this week, the fact that the synagogue leaders, Crispus and Sosthenes, became followers of Jesus is a great reminder that Jesus is still committed to "seek and save" the lost even if we don't think they would be interested. Is there someone in your life you once thought would never be interested in following Jesus who is now a follower of Jesus?

5. During the Last Supper, Jesus knew how difficult the next few days would be for His disciples as they struggled with fear, doubt and anxiety. He spent most of the dinner conversation preparing them for the challenges that were to come. **Read John 14:1-3; 14:15-20; 14:27; 16:6-7.**

- What stands out to you in these passages from this conversation that could have provided the disciples with comfort and encouragement?
- Which of Jesus' statements is most helpful to you as you potentially face fear and anxiety-producing circumstances in your life?

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

Some parts of this week's Study Guide are adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

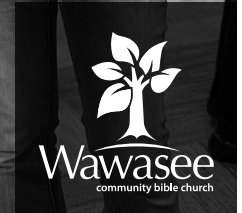
Sunday, November 5, 2023



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We're Glad You're Here Today!
Scan QR code for our **Digital Bulletin & Connect Card.**
<https://wawasee.today>