



## The Great Adventure - *Paul in Ephesus: A Little Off Target* **Acts 18:24-19:1-10**

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### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Key Text

#### Acts 18:24-19:10

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. 27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. 28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So, Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This

went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. NIV

### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss some of the important features of the city of Ephesus that Paul visited.
  - *Most Important City in Asia in that day. Population around 300,000*
  - *Home of one of the seven wonders of the world - the Temple of Artemis. 127 pillars 60' tall. Artemis daughter of Zeus - the twin sister of Apollo.*
  - *Goddess that protected young girls before marriage, goddess protector of wildlife and hunting goddess.*
2. Where was Apollos from? Why was Alexandria renowned for its high education and learning?
3. Describe his teachability from Aquila and Priscilla. Discuss Aquila and Priscilla sensitivity in confronting Apollos' slight error in his teaching. Why should confrontation be a private matter and not a public matter.
4. Discuss the statement below regarding the importance of not confronting everything. Why should we overlook unimportant matters and reserve our energies for more important matters?

“See Everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.” Pope John XXIII
5. When Aquila and Priscilla confronted Apollos and Paul confronted the disciples at Ephesus it demonstrates that correct doctrine and accurate belief's matter. Discuss the verses below as they relate to important doctrines and beliefs.

#### **Titus 1:9**

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. NIV

#### **2 Tim 4:2-5**

2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. NIV

#### **Acts 16:31**

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household." NIV

#### **Rev 2:2-3**

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary. NIV

