

# Reach further: with perseverance discussion guide

based on **Acts 18.1-11** (Linked to sermon of 23/6/24)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks)

*This was part of a series of talks from Acts 16-20 exploring Paul's second missionary journey – and what we can learn as a church about putting our church's third aim (reach further with the good news of Jesus) into practice.*

Intro: Pick a 'first day' – at a new school / college / job / living in a new city etc. How did you feel?

Read Acts 18.1-6

How do you think Paul felt, coming in to a huge city like Corinth, by himself? Compare your answer with 1 Corinthians 2.1-5. Why do you think Paul felt so fearful and weak?

Have you ever thought of yourself as a 'tentmaker' – ie a missionary sent by God into a 'secular' workplace – to work and witness for Christ? Why / why not?

Paul 'reasoned' 'persuaded' (v4), preached, testified (v5). What might be the different nuances in evangelism implied in those different words? How might we be similarly varied in our evangelism today? [if you want, use an online resource like <https://www.stepbible.org/?q=version=ESV|reference=Acts.18> to look up the Greek meaning behind the words]

Paul is enabled to go 'full-time' as a gospel worker when Silas and Timothy join him – presumably because they took paid jobs to help pay his bills. If one gospel worker was supported by just 2 donors, they must have given a high proportion of their income! What would have motivated them to give so sacrificially? What would motivate you to give to gospel work?

Paul isn't having a hissy-fit in v6 – he's saying that he's fulfilled his responsibility to proclaim the gospel; their response is up to them. Read Ezekiel 3.18-19 and Luke 9.1-6.  
Take a piece of paper and draw up 3 columns: What is God's responsibility in evangelism? What is our responsibility in evangelism? What is the hearer's responsibility in evangelism?  
Fill in your answers under each heading and discuss. What encourages you or challenges you about your lists?

Read Acts 18.7-11

It's strange that the synagogue leader seems to become a Christian *after* Paul has left the synagogue in protest and started preaching to the Gentiles. Why do you think that might be?

Look carefully at the Lord's word to Paul in v9-10. It includes command, reassurance and promise. Which part of this do you think would have spoken most clearly to Paul?  
Although this vision hasn't been given specifically to us, much of its contents may well still be true. Which part of it speaks most clearly to you in your situation?  
What might Paul have been afraid of in his evangelism? What are you afraid of?

Dan drew home two main points: don't be surprised by opposition & don't be silenced by opposition. Discuss.

Spend some time praying for each other and for us as a church community, as we seek to reach further with the good news of Jesus.