

WE ARE CONTRIBUTORS, NOT CONSUMERS

CCC DNA Statements

We do not attend church, we are the Church, and we exist in and for the world.

Scripture Passage: Acts 18:23–28, Romans 12:3–8

OVERVIEW

Each Jesus-follower is gifted by God and called to ministry in unique ways for the purpose of building up the church (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4). Our gifts are not our own benefit but for the common good of God's people. Today's passage describes Apollos, a well-educated, enthusiastic, and bold speaker who used his gifts to contribute to the ministry of the church. At the same time, Apollos showed humility in his willingness to be taught "the way of God more adequately" and his relationship with Priscilla and Aquila led to even more fruitful ministry. The church is at her best when we lean into the strengths and gifts of each believer for ministry, in order to serve the common good and realize God's kingdom on earth.

GROUP OBJECTIVES

- Listen to the Spirit as you study the text together.
- Read through Acts 18:23–28 and Romans 12:3–8 as a group.
- Discern your own spiritual gifts and how they can build up the body of Christ.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is something you've always wanted to be good at?
- What is a skill you possess that is not commonly held by others?

OPENING PRAYER

- Pray that we will recognize God's presence and that his Word will speak to our hearts in a transformative way that honors him.

BIBLE STUDY

- How do we see consumerism in the American church today? How about in our church?

Read Acts 18:18–28.

- » From the passage, what do we know about Apollos?
- » How did Priscilla and Aquila demonstrate being contributors in this passage?
- » From verses 25–26, what do you think Priscilla and Aquila explained to Apollos?
- » What was the impact that Apollos had on the church? What about Priscilla and Aquila?

Read Romans 12:3–8.

- » What were Apollos's spiritual gifts and how were they used in the book of Acts? What about Priscilla and Aquila's gifts?
- » Everybody has spiritual gifts. Do you know what yours are? Refer to 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 for a longer list of gifts.
- Why is it important that each person identifies their gifts and finds a way to utilize them?
 - » What can happen if gifts are not utilized? How does this affect the spiritual health of a person?
- In what way does consumerism in the church tie into the exercising of spiritual gifts?
 - » How does the utilization of spiritual gifts affect the health of the church body?
 - » In what ways can we be an encouragement to one another that all gifts are equally important?

- ant to the church? (1 Corinthians 12:18–27)
- What giftedness or other contributions do you see others bringing to the group? Spend time affirming one another in these contributions.
 - Which of the following most keeps you from exercising your gift(s) in your group?
 - » Too tired to jump in
 - » Too busy to get involved
 - » Afraid it won't be received well
 - » Not sure what my gifts are
 - How could you begin overcoming this barrier?

CLOSING PRAYER

- Share prayer requests and close in prayer together.
- Pray that God will use various people and opportunities to call out the Spirit gifts God wants you to use on behalf of the kingdom.
- Ask God to reveal to you what your next step of service might be, including training or equipping from another more experienced believer.