

08 PEOPLE AND PRESENCE

KEY TEXT: ACTS 18:1-11,18-21

CENTRAL truth

In this week's teaching, we read about the apostle Paul's visit to Corinth, the largest city in Greece. While he was there, he received a vision from the Lord, preparing him for the challenges he would face. The Lord told Paul not be afraid, rooting His command in a series of promises. We, too, can be reminded that **God has given us His presence and His people to help us serve Him.**

key question

How did the Lord's promises help Paul remain faithful to his work?

God didn't give Paul a "believe in yourself!" pep-talk, as we might be tempted to do. Instead, His command was rooted in three promises: He would be with Paul; He would protect Paul for this ministry assignment; and He would draw people to Himself through Paul's message. These promises can encourage us during difficult moments, as well.

keep in mind

- One of the Lord's promises to Paul for this ministry assignment was that he would not be harmed. It's important to remind students that while God does not promise believers today that we will always be protected from physical harm, we can find comfort in God's power and sovereign rule, and we can trust that He is always working behind the scenes.
- After staying in Corinth for some time, Paul left for Ephesus—this time, bringing Priscilla and Aquila with him. This passage can remind us to see our sisters and brothers in Christ as valuable members within God's family. Though we're all wired differently and possess different gifts, both women and men are called to partner with one another in service to King Jesus.

application

What are some ways that God shows His care for us? How can we express our gratitude for these acts of care?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students can be encouraged that through the Holy Spirit that dwells within us, we can find confidence and encouragement in the Lord's presence with us.

FOR THE LEADER: We will all have moments when we experience fear and discouragement. Through this teaching and your own story, remind students that the promise of the Lord's presence is a source of comfort.