AUGUST 2021

Bible Study | Missions Project
Prepare
- Journal
- Pen/pencil

Get Started
Describe your role at your current or past job. What experience did you have before you started your role? What experience do you hope to gain from your current position? Reflect on your connections to others at work or school, and think about whether there are individuals you could disciple or mentor.

God’s Word offers several examples of women who held jobs, including the Proverbs 31 woman (Prov. 31:13–19), Lydia (Acts 16:14), and the woman in this month’s passage, Priscilla. These women were noted for their hard and successful work. Their jobs put them in unique situations to be used by God. Specifically, Priscilla was given the opportunity to disciple new believers.

Look at Acts 18 to study how Priscilla discipled Apollos, a new believer in the church at Ephesus. Just as Priscilla used her position to be a mentor, you could encourage and disciple the individuals God has placed around you.

Study and Learn

Read Acts 18:1–3.
Paul thought well enough of Priscilla and her husband, Aquila, to invite them with him on his missionary journey. In this passage, Paul concluded his second missionary journey and began his third missionary journey, returning to churches he previously visited and encouraging the disciples there.

As Paul traveled in the surrounding areas, Priscilla and Aquila had a unique opportunity for discipleship in Ephesus. Verse 24 says Apollos was “a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.” Although he had been “instructed in the way of the Lord” and “spoke with great fervor” (v. 25) Apollos needed discipleship. He knew about the baptism of John, but he needed to understand the full significance of Jesus Christ and His message.

Priscilla and Aquila discipled Apollos by inviting him to their home and explaining “the way of God more adequately” (v. 26). Apollos spoke about Jesus with passion, conviction, and accuracy despite his limited information. As Priscilla and Aquila mentored Apollos, he matured in his faith individually and as a leader in the church.

- Are there new believers in your life or at your church whom you could mentor as Priscilla and Aquila did? If so, who are they?
- Who supported your spiritual growth when you first became a believer, and how could you encourage others in a similar way?

Apollos traveled to minister in Achaia and was a great help to others who came to salvation by the grace of God. This...
passage shows the bigger picture of how God used Priscilla and Aquila to disciple a new believer, Apollos, and the multiplying effect of this discipleship. Through Priscilla and Aquila’s discipleship, Apollos was more effective in furthering God’s kingdom and helping other new believers grow in their faith.

**Read Ephesians 2:10; 4:11–13.**

Paul described believers’ identity as “God’s handiwork” (Eph. 2:10)—He calls, prepares, and equips us to do good works that glorify Him. When we serve others with good works, we grow individually in knowledge and maturity. God also enables us to grow in unity with the body of Christ when we mentor new Christians.

- What are ways you can be an encouraging example to other believers in your everyday life?
- How could you make sure your words and actions reflect Jesus and point others to Him?

In Matthew 28:19, making disciples of new believers includes baptism and helping them grow in the study of Scripture. Often, it may be easy to make disciples but overlook investing in their understanding of God’s Word. Priscilla made sure Apollos understood God’s Word accurately, which is an example for discipling new believers who do not have full knowledge of the Bible.

**Apply**

If you are going to disciple others, then you must be intentional about growing in your faith and using the opportunities God orchestrates. Reflect on these application questions about how you could use your knowledge and experience to mentor other believers.

Priscilla was a woman who studied God’s Word so she could explain it accurately. Studying Scripture is a lifelong journey.

- How are you growing in your knowledge of the Bible?
- What are practical ways you could mature in your study of Scripture?
- Reflect on how you could start or develop habits of praying, memorizing Scripture, and reading your Bible.

Priscilla was a woman involved in missions. The Great Commission is for all people. Part of it includes making disciples.

- Where are you intentionally making disciples and helping other believers grow in their faith?

Priscilla was a woman who had a trade and used it. God has given you gifts and skills for a reason.

- Jot down your professional experience.
- How can you use your profession and work experience to make disciples of new believers?
- What skills can you use to serve others or volunteer with a particular ministry?

**Follow Up**

Spend time praying about one person whom you could disciple.

Explore ways to further your knowledge of God’s Word through Bible study so you could be better equipped for making disciples.

**Commit to Memory**

**Verses:** Ephesians 2:10

**Challenge:** Ephesians 4:11–13
**Project: Memorize Scripture with New Believers**

In the Bible study, you learned the importance of discipling new believers into maturity. Based on this knowledge, how could you be a mentor to new Christians growing in their faith and knowledge of the Bible? This month, look at how you could disciple new believers through memorizing Scripture with them.

Discipleship goes beyond seeing people pass through the waters of baptism. It involves helping them grow in their knowledge of God through His Word.

Memorizing Scripture is one small part of understanding God’s Word and hiding it in our hearts. Many believers stay stagnant in their faith because of their lack of understanding of the Bible. Disciplining ourselves to memorize Scripture takes time and practice, but the benefits and results are immeasurable. By it, we come to understand “the way of God more adequately” (Acts 18:26).

**BEFORE THE PROJECT**

- Organize a monthlong plan for memorizing sections of the Bible. Research potential chapters to study and memorize with a new believer.
- Identify a new believer (or believers) who is willing to commit one month to memorize a short chapter of the Bible. Consider reaching out to a young girl in your church’s student ministry or a young woman who has recently come to faith through a missions project.
- Reach out to a Christian friend or another woman at your church about partnering to support the new believer.
- Take time to get to know this new disciple over coffee or ice cream. Ask her about her church background, how she came to faith, and who is currently discipling her. See this as the beginning of a friendship.
- Briefly share the importance of memorizing Scripture. Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17 together, and take a moment to pray. Talk about how reading the Bible guides your life and equips you to do good works that point others to Christ.

**DURING THE PROJECT**

- Decide on a chapter of the Bible to memorize. Keep in mind several chapters have less than 15 verses and would make an easy choice for memorizing over a month. Memorizing one verse every two to three days is a doable challenge.
- Develop a plan for how you will memorize the verses over the month. For instance, you could make notecards or use a Scripture memory app on your phone. Discuss how and how often you will meet to keep each other accountable. Meet face-to-face or through video chat as your schedules allow.
- Chart your progress. Mark off each verse you have memorized. Don’t stress about perfect word-for-word memorizing, but do try to stick to one easy-to-memorize version, and follow as closely as you can. Encourage each other along the way.

**AFTER THE PROJECT**

- Treat your disciple to coffee or ice cream. Celebrate your victories and hard work. Debrief with her about her experience over the last month. Talk about what you learned from memorizing Scripture.
- Encourage your disciple to keep memorizing Scripture and, if possible, memorize it with others.