

INTRO

- What's the longest you've lived in a place?

READ

Acts 18:24-28

REFLECT & RESPOND

So far in Acts, figures like Peter and Paul have dominated the headlines. But behind the scenes, there are a host of unsung heroes who played a vital role in the life and success of the early church. Priscilla & Aquila are a married couple who had a critical influence on Apollos, arguably one of the leading evangelists and preachers of the 1st century.

The text tells us Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria (after Rome, the most influential city in the Ancient world and a centre for education and philosophy). He was:

- **Educated** in the ways of the world and **competent** in Scripture;
- **Passionate** and **accurate** in speaking about Jesus

But despite all this, he was lacking maturity in his discipleship of Jesus: he knew *about* Jesus in a limited way.

Qu: reflect on these balances in Apollos. Do you see a similar balance or imbalance in your life?

After hearing him preach, Priscilla & Aquila invite him into their home and “explained the way of God more adequately”, and connected him to the other “brothers and sisters” for encouragement.

This is a picture of the early church's culture of discipleship: unsung heroes being disciples and making disciples of Jesus.

At ENGTA, this is a key part of the church culture we want to cultivate: **a culture of growing where we see and help people become mature followers of Jesus.**

Growing as a disciple

For all of Apollos' superior personality, background and gifting, it was his **humility** and **teachability** to receive correction and encouragement from Priscilla & Aquila that was key to his ministry effectiveness.

Qu: when last did you receive correction and encouragement in your walk with Jesus from someone else? Do you intentionally invite others to speak into your life?

Helping others grow as disciples

Priscilla and Aquila weren't threatened by Apollos, nor did they just leave him to be dealt with by someone more gifted like Paul. To speak truth into another's life requires we move toward others both **graciously** and **boldly**.

Qu: What do you think prevents more of us from taking the initiative towards discipling others? Do you have an “Apollos” in your life that you are helping in their walk with Jesus?

Within Every Nation, the process of discipling others is underpinned by 4E principles:

- **Engage** the culture and community
- **Establish** biblical foundations
- **Equip** to minister
- **Empower** to minister and make disciples

Prayerfully think through someone you can begin this process with.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray our church would grow in this area of disciple-making