Discussion Guide

Paul's Journey to Corinth: "Faith, Risk, Failure, and God's will"

GETTING STARTED

How do Christians typically try to discern God's will in their life, or make a difficult decision about the future?
Are faith and risk mutually exclusive? Can you have one without the other?
What do you tell yourself when you experience failure?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Name the failures Paul experienced from Acts 17:32-18:11
What keeps Paul going?
What about Paul's experience, inform us about how we can seek God's will, experience failures and keep going?
In what way is God "silent" in this journey to Corinth and amid Paul's failed strategies?
What can we learn personally as we move in faith, take risks, and experience failure?
What do we learn from Paul's journey to Corinth about failure?
How does God speak to us as we seek His will?
What confirmation or affirmation has God given us in His word about trusting Him regardless of the outcome?
In what way can we be waiting for God to speak, and miss out on Him telling us to Go?
What may God be calling you to risk, or our church to risk in order to share the good news of Jesus?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE DEEPER [Acts 17:32-18:11]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What were Paul's concluding remarks? (17:30-31)
How did the Greeks respond to Paul? (17:32-34)
Who became believers? (17:34)
Where did Paul go after leaving Athens? (18:1)
With what Jewish couple did Paul meet? (18:2)
What did Paul have in common with Aquila and Priscilla? (18:3)
What did Paul do every Sabbath in Corinth? (18:4)
What did Paul spend his time doing when Silas and Timothy arrived? (18:5)
Why was Paul able to stop tentmaking when his friends arrived from Macedonia? (18:5)
When the Jews opposed Paul, how did he react? (18:6)
In Corinth, why did Paul turn to the Gentiles? (18:6-7)
Who believed in the Lord? (18:8)
What prompted Paul's vision of the Lord? (18:9-11)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How would you judge Paul's ministry in Athens? Why?
How can you deal with attitudes of pride and arrogance that surface in you from time to time?
What does Paul do when he experiences failure and rejection? How would that help us?
How does Paul discern to who and how he should communicate the gospel?
How do Paul's failures just become fuel to spread the gospel?
How ought us as Christians respond to rejection or failure with more grit, determination and resilience?
How should we respond when people reject the gospel?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?
How can we pray for each other?