



## Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 8: Keep Calm and Make Disciples

### Acts 18: 1-21

#### Discussion Questions for August 30th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) Pastor Shaen used a football analogy in his sermon. Who's ready for college football and NFL to start soon? Who's the biggest fan in your group? Any plans to travel to a game in person?
2. **Main Idea: Keep Calm and Carry On.** Paul was surely weary from traveling and opposition to his message. What are some things in life that tend to leave you feeling spiritually or emotionally weary?
3. The sermon emphasized that Paul is not God; he's human like you and I. As we've followed Paul's story over two missionary journeys so far, what are some ways that you can see yourself in Paul? What are some ways that he is an example that you can strive for?
4. **Point #1: Jesus Calms Our Fears.** The sermon used the illustration of the preacher who said, "I never cross the Fox River until I reach it." What are some "Fox Rivers" you find yourself worrying about before you actually reach them? What would it look like to trust God with those things instead?
5. **Point #2: Jesus Emboldens Our Faith.** Jesus told Paul, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent." Why do you think fear so often causes us to become silent about our faith?
6. **Point #3: Jesus Protects Us.** Jesus promised Paul protection, yet Paul eventually died at the hands of the Roman government. How should we understand God's promise to protect us when Christians still experience suffering, illness, persecution, and death?
7. If you knew that Jesus was with you and that your ultimate future was secure in Him, what would you be more willing to do for the sake of the Gospel?

8. Pray that we can keep calm and carry on with the mission to share the hope of Jesus in a broken world. Pray that our group members will feel the presence of Jesus and have faith that Jesus will protect us as we witness for Him.
9. Going Deeper: If your group would like to further investigate the themes of the sermon, here are some thoughts:
  - a. Compare and contrast Gideon (in Judges 6 and 7) to Paul (in Acts 18)
  - b. May want to read together Judges 6:11-16 and 7:9-15
  - c. Why do you think Scripture is so willing to show us the fear and weakness of people God is using?
  - d. What does God actually do to Gideon's fear? To Paul's?
  - e. Biblical courage is usually courage to obey. What is the difference between God giving us peace and God giving us courage?
  - f. Why might God sometimes allow His servants to become weak, tired, afraid, or inadequate (like sending troops home) before accomplishing something significant through them?