

LIFEGROUP STUDY
HOW TO START A REVOLUTION:
“The Dip”
Acts 18:1-17
20210606

LEADER NOTES

OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our series, How to Start a Revolution. Over the weeks of this series, we’re exploring the book of Acts to see how the NT church was the Revolution for Jesus in their day and how we can be the Revolution today! In life, we’re constantly faced with decisions about whether to quit or stick it out. “The Dip” is that challenging season when we should persevere and not quit. When you’re facing decisions, how can you know if you’re coming to a dead end and it’s time to quit or if you’re in The Dip and you should persevere? In today’s study, we’ll explore how Paul leaned into God and his sense of calling to discern when to quit and when to persevere. Our goal is that Paul’s example will give us wisdom to know when to quit and when it’s time to stick it out and persevere.

ICEBREAKER - My Tentmaker Skill

In Acts 18, the Apostle Paul works with Aquila and Priscilla. Together, they make tents to earn a living. (see Acts 18:1-3). What “tentmaking” skill do you have that your group members may not know about? Is there a unique job you’ve had, or a skill you have that could earn you money? Share your tent making skill with the group!

STUDY

1. On Sunday Pete talked about decision making. There are seasons in life when you are facing a dead end and the best thing you can do is quit. There are other times when you are experiencing The Dip. This is a time to persevere. **What key highlight did you take from Pete’s teaching?**
2. **What story comes to mind of something you had to quit? How did that decision turn out? Are you glad you quit or do you have some regrets?**
3. READ: Acts 18:1-17

In this passage we see Paul discerning when it was time to quit. After being rejected by the Jews, he quits preaching to them and goes instead to the Gentiles (vs. 5-6). **Why did Paul quit?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul based his decision to quit on his calling in Christ. Paul was called to preach to the Gentiles, but he had an obligation to bring the message of Jesus first to the Jews. When he was in Antioch, after being rejected by the Jews there, Paul said, "It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it and judged yourself unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles." Acts 13:46. Like Paul, we should weigh our decisions whether to quit or to persevere based on who we are in Christ and our call to follow Jesus.

4. In Acts 18, The Dip for Paul is the city of Corinth, in which he perseveres for over a year and then much longer as we hear about the struggles in Corinth through the letters he would later write. God carries us through the Dip. **What's the hardest "Dip" you've ever persevered through? How have you experienced God carrying you through the Dip?**

LEADER NOTE: In Acts 18:9-10, God reminds Paul that He is with him and watching over him in The Dip. The Bible tells us to expect challenges (The Dip) when we follow Jesus (see 1 Peter 4:12). In the seasons of The Dip we can know God is with us and will see us through. (see Hebrews 13:5)

5. As the pandemic lessens and we begin to re-engage with "normal life", what might you quit (maybe an activity or commitment you had pre-pandemic) or what Dip may you experience? **How might your calling to follow Jesus guide your decision to quit or persevere?**

LEADER NOTE: Followers of Jesus should intentionally choose to pursue activities and commitments that bring glory to Him. As we emerge from this season of pandemic, we have opportunity to evaluate our commitments. This group time and the upcoming summer months can be an opportune time for your group members to think and pray about what God might be calling them to quit and how He may be calling them to persevere through The Dip.

PRAYER

This week let's pray for our teaching team (Ken and Pete) at Creekside.

- Pray for Ken and Pete as they work on the teaching series for this year. For creativity and wisdom as to what people need to hear and what will help them most. For ears to hear what God wants communicated.
- For the energy and discipline to remain diligent in their preparation.