

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Finding God's People

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 18:1-17**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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### OVERVIEW

In these verses, we see how Paul engages the people around him. He is seeking out some other tent makers, as well as the community of God's people. On the Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. These are activities in our lives in which we need to be sharing the gospel. We see three main things in these verses: First, invite everyone to join us in community. In doing so we can share and proclaim Jesus. Second, when sharing the gospel, leave the results to God. Third, while we share the gospel or confront obstacles or trials, find our strength and confidence in God's grace. **When you find God, you find your people.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

James 4:8-10; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 2:38; John 1:12; Matthew 12:46-50; Matthew 5:11-12; 1 Peter 4:12-14; Nehemiah 5:13; Matthew 10:4; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 23:4; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 John 1:1-3a

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This message encourages us to share the gospel with those around us. Do we seek people or let God bring them to us? Does loving others factor into this mission? Is it easier to share time with other believers than non-believers? How can we cultivate an environment where we can have genuine opportunities for community and share the gospel?
2. When faced with hard-heartedness or opposition to the gospel, what is our most common response? Paul shook out his garments and moved on to those who would be more receptive. When would "moving on" be appropriate for us? Does this mean we stop praying for those lost souls?
3. Are we looking for opportunities to invite people into our community? This includes our church body, community groups, our home, our lives. Do we find this challenging, or does this come easily? Is it simply as easy as just asking?
4. Why is there freedom in trusting God to cultivate a relationship and for the harvest or fruitlessness, after we have shared the gospel? How does this speak to God's sovereignty?
5. No one likes to be rejected. Especially when the rejection might also include hardship or bodily harm. Paul was concerned by what was happening around him, but in Acts 18:9, God came to him in a vision and said, "Do not be afraid, do not be silent, for I AM with you". What do we do in times of fear or weakness? Do we lean into God, seeking refuge and listen to His words?