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Priscilla & Aquila

*Practicing Hospitality***Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5**

Hospitality takes many forms. For some it is crystal, damask, china and Grandmother's silver. For others it is ordering out pizza and kicking back for the game. For still others it's an e-mail that reads, "Welcome to our campus."

GROUP DISCUSSION. What do you do to prepare for guests? When you are a guest, what forms of hospitality do you most enjoy?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Bring to mind one of your favorite memories as a guest. What made that time special? Thank God for it and for the people who made that occasion possible.

Hospitality was a gift even in the apostle Paul's era. And he was a recipient. *Read Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5.*

1. In which different ways did Priscilla and Aquila show hospitality?

2. Focus on Acts 18. Why would Paul be a difficult houseguest?

3. What local controversies do you think Paul discussed with Priscilla and Aquila around the kitchen table at night (Acts 18:1-17)?

4. What evidence do you see that, in spite of the hostile atmosphere, God was using Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:8-11)?

5. How do you think Priscilla and Aquila's hospitality contributed to Paul's ability to do God's work in Corinth?

6. What do you think Priscilla and Aquila gained from Paul?

7. When have you grown spiritually or emotionally because of the presence of a guest in your home?

8. What further examples of hospitality do you see among the early Christians in this text (Acts 18:18-28)?

9. Why do you think Priscilla and Aquila traveled with Paul as far as Ephesus—then stayed there?

10. What reasons did Apollos have to be grateful to Priscilla and Aquila?

11. Look again at Romans 16:3-5. What would be difficult about having a church meet in your home?

What would be rewarding?

12. What are some practical ways that you can use your own home (or room or computer) to accomplish God's work?

Pray, thanking God for hospitality that you have received and asking for opportunities to extend welcoming care to someone else.

Now or Later

Brush up on your hospitality atmosphere. What says "I welcome you" in your own setting? A room arranged for conversation? A freshly made bed? An inviting sign on your door? Cold cans of soda? A relaxed smile and a listening ear? Whatever it is, make the preparations. Carve out time and emotional space for hospitality. Make a game of inviting the first appropriate person into that space, and see what use God makes of that effort.