

**Study Aids**  
**Discussion Questions**  
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 119

Questions:

The church at Philippi was the first congregation Paul established in Europe, yet he spent only a short time there. A church was founded in the home of Lydia, and there was also the jailor and his household that became converts. It was a very small congregation, but we know from Paul’s letters that they supported Paul in his work at Corinth, and sent him money and the personal support of another worker named Epaphroditus. Does this explain the special connection that Paul felt to this group of people?

The church at Thessalonica was another small congregation that Paul only spent a short time with. Their needs for leadership greatly concerned Paul while he was working in Corinth. Finally, it reached the point where he sent Timothy back to them to provide more instruction, and to learn how they fared. Can you imagine the difficulties they faced from the legalistic “Judaizers” (as Paul calls them)? How well would you have fared, had you been in their shoes? Are there times when you have felt inadequate in terms of your Bible knowledge?

Why do you think Paul spent such little time in Athens? After all, it was the cultural center of the Mediterranean region. But he goes instead to Corinth, the city with the vile reputation to spend 18 months there. Does this remind you of what Jesus said in Matthew 9:10-13? Would the Athenians, with all their education and philosophers see themselves as someone needing a physician?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-27. What kind of people did Paul reach out to in Corinth? Do they appear to be plain, simple folk? Can you relate to these people?