

Life's True Joy

- Paul _____ himself in Priscilla and Aquila and entrusted them with ministry to a fledgling church

Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.... They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila.... (Acts 18:18-22)

- They invested in _____

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. (Acts 18:24-26)

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. (Acts 18:27,28)

- They invested in the church at _____

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. (1 Cor 16:19)

- They invested in the church at _____ (Romans 16:3-5)

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house. (Romans 16:3, 4, 5a)

- Priscilla & Aquila put _____ before _____

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

- **Investing examples in Scripture:**

Christ with disciples

Barnabas with Paul

Barnabas with John Mark

Paul with Timothy

Elijah with Elisha

Eli with Samuel

Naomi with Ruth

Nathan with David

Moses with Joshua

➤ **We often have no idea what influence we have on others.**

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (I Thess 2:11-13)

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus, when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy. (I Thess 2:19,20)

Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? (I Thess 3:7-9)

➤ **Ways you can invest in others:**

1. _____ for them
2. _____ to them & empathize with them
3. Work on projects _____ them
4. Spend _____ with them
5. Go out of your way to find out their _____ & help them meet them
6. Advise them _____ they are seeking advice
7. Look people in the _____ when they serve you & thank them
8. _____ for them when they are sick
9. _____ them into your home (for dinner, dessert, games, home studies, etc.)
10. Take them out to _____.

➤ **Our challenge:**

1. Invest in others' lives.
2. Who is your _____ and _____?

➤ **Couple Sharing**

1. Consider the list of ten ways to invest in people and discuss 2 or 3 that you could focus on doing as a couple - or add to the list.
2. Think of people that have invested in you and send them a handwritten note of appreciation and thanks within the next week.