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**Date:** August 22, 2021 **Message Series:** In the Earliest Church

**Title:** Government, Gatherings, and Women **Scripture:** Acts 18

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Government: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 8:1, 4-5** – And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

**Acts 24:24** – Paul...spoke about his faith in Christ Jesus

Gatherings: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:42, 46** – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts

Women: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Acts 18:1-8, 12-16, 18, 24-26

1. In your lifetime, how have you seen the interaction between Christianity and the government change? Has the change been an improvement, a detriment, or something else? What makes you think so?
2. What encourages you about the earliest church's interaction with their government? What is challenging about it?
3. How could you use the current posture of our government as an opportunity to share your faith?
4. What do you miss if you only participate in a large church gathering? What do you miss if you only participate in a small church gathering?
5. In what ways could you increase your unity with other small groups of this church who do not meet at the same time or place as your smaller group?
6. In what ways does Bridges already highlight the contributions of women to the church? In what ways could we improve?
7. In what ways does Bridges already elevate the status of the marginalized in our society? In what ways could we improve?