

## Leaders' Note

Our study today will focus in part on the meaning and importance of baptism in water. It may well be that God will use this to challenge someone in your group who has never been baptised to consider baptism for themselves – if so please encourage them to pray it through and speak to one of the ministers. However, please do *not* allow the discussion to become uncomfortable or condemning towards anyone who does not feel ready to take this step yet.

## Opener

Ask each person in turn to answer the following question if they feel able:  
If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you most like to visit? Why that place in particular? Would there be any fears or concerns about travelling there?

## Worship

Read Philippians 1:6 to the group. We are going to take some time to hear about the good works that God has begun in each of our lives, and the ways in which He is bringing them towards completion. Ask people to share briefly anything that God has been saying or doing in their lives over recent weeks. After each person has shared take a minute for someone else in the group to pray, giving thanks for what God has already done in that person's life and asking him to continue and complete his work in them.

## Bible Study

Read Acts 18:24-19:7 and discuss together:

- What questions did Paul ask to ascertain how far the Ephesian disciples had gone in their spiritual walk?
- What was lacking in both Apollos and the Ephesian disciples?
- What was the difference between John's baptism and that of Jesus?
- What do you understand by the phrase "baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus"? Why do you think Paul placed such significance on this?
- Do you see any connections between baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon people?
- Contrast the roles of Apollos and Priscilla and Aquila. You might find it helpful to look at 1 Corinthians 3:5-6 and Romans 16:3-5. Here is the power of a home-group in action!

## Reflection and Prayer

Get into pairs and discuss together:

- Have there been significant milestones in your spiritual journey? These might be things like your baptism, an occasion when you were filled with the Holy Spirit, a time when someone has taken the time to explain the faith to you more adequately, beginning to use your gifts to serve God's people, or other key events in your spiritual development.
- Are there any milestones that you are aware of which are still in front of you?
- Pray for each other in your pairs, that God will do his bit in bringing you to the next milestone in your walk with him, and determine before him that you will do yours.