

SUPPLEMENTARY WEB RESOURCE 7



EXTRA MATERIAL FOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN CORINTH

If your group or class has more characters in Chloe's house church than are listed in the curriculum, here is information about names, occupations and housing that will help develop your character.

Greek, Roman, and Jewish Names

Those of Apollos:

Male: Demetrius, Isidoros, Lucius

Female: Clariana, Kalandria

Those of Paul:

Female: Dorea, Felicia, Aelia

Male: Euporus, Gaudentius

Those of Cephas (Peter):

Female: Hannah, Tamar

Male: Nathaniel, Obed, Eleazar

Those of Christ:

Female: Plotia, Suria, Quarta

Male: Patrobas, Hermes

Where do you live? Except for the descriptions of characters who are connected to Chloe's house and weaving and dyeing cooperative, others live elsewhere. Slaves may be working in a pagan household down the street or a few blocks away. They may have met Paul if they came to his tent-making shop, or had work connections with any of the Christian believers. Slaves, who could not legally marry, may have a liaison with another slave from a nearby household.

Very few people were wealthy enough to own a large house of their own. Chloe and her husband probably lived in a tenement building with a shop on the lower level. Her slaves or employees could occupy one room (or one room for a couple or family) in the tenement. They could be several stories high, with the higher rooms cheaper and more unstable. Charcoal braziers in a room could be used for some cooking and heating, although the risk of fire was very high in such wood-and plaster structures.

Persons in the various factions are generally lower class, either freeborn, freed persons, or slaves. They could be renting rooms in the area and working at any number of occupations.

What do you do for a living? Upper classes did not do manual labor. They considered it demeaning, messy, and often immoral. Such work kept them from cultural and education pursuits, from public life and from friendships. Their wealth came from inheritances, property rentals, and money lent at high interest.

Some people in the Apollos faction apparently did not have to work, or at least not from sunrise to sunset as did others. A few may be merchants who are profiting from the trade that has brought wealth to Corinth. For example, Phoebe of Cenchreae may run a shipping company, since she lives in this harbor town and could afford to travel to Rome with Paul's letter several years later.

Less is known about lower class people and slaves in terms of occupation. Higher-class persons viewed slaves and other lower-class people existing merely for their benefit (as we view our cars, computers, and appliances). However, here are some options:

- Transport workers who help haul cargo across the Isthmus
- Brick and tile workers, potters, tanners, leatherworkers, grain mill workers

- Artisans: ironsmiths, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, bronze smiths, sculptors, shoemakers
- Cooks, waiters, gardeners, construction workers, teachers, clerks, secretaries, midwives, entertainers, wool-spinners, weavers, bath attendants
- Land would have been farmed just outside of the city, so any number of people could work in the fields, both slave and free or freed
- Slaves who belong to a more upper-class household can be doing a wide range of the above services for their owners