

Aquila and Priscilla Teach Apollos

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



Scriptures

Acts 18:1-4, 24-28; Rom 16:3-5; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants His followers to read and understand His words and teachings

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify the right attitudes to have when learning about God and His teachings

Memory Verse

"You shall serve Him and hold fast to Him."
(Deut 13:4)



Bible Knowledge

Corinth

Corinth was the political and commercial center of Greece. However, it had a reputation for great wickedness and immorality. A temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and war, had been built on the large hill behind the city. In this popular religion, people worshiped the goddess by giving money to the temple and taking part in sexual acts with male and female temple prostitutes. Paul found Corinth to be both a challenge and a great ministry opportunity. Later, he wrote 1 and 2 Corinthians to the believers, dealing in part with the problems of immorality.

Aquila and Priscilla

During his stay in Corinth, Paul lived and worked with a Jewish couple named Aquila and Priscilla. Like Paul, they were tentmakers. It is not clear if they became Christians before or after meeting Paul. But at some point, they became workers in the gospel. They accompanied Paul to Ephesus (Acts 18:19) where they met and instruct-

ed Apollos. Not much else is recorded about this couple, except that Paul thanked them for risking their lives for him (Rom 16:4).

Apollos

Apollos was an Alexandrian Jew (Acts 18:24). The name is abbreviated from Apollonius. He went to Ephesus in 52 AD during Paul's hasty visit to Palestine (Acts 18:22). He was an eloquent speaker and he had a profound understanding of the Old Testament. With those gifts, he enthusiastically proclaimed the truth as he knew it (Acts 18:24, 25). However, when Apollos began to preach in the synagogue at Ephesus, Priscilla and Aquila noticed that something important was missing in his message. The Bible says that before he met Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos only knew of John's baptism. Therefore, Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and instructed him in the Christian faith. From Ephesus, Apollos went on to Corinth, where he later showed himself to be an expert in the Scriptures concerning Jesus as the Messiah (Acts 18:26). Apollos obviously had a great deal of influence in the church, as Paul often mentioned him (1 Cor 4:6, 16:12).



Understanding Your Students

Young children usually go to their parents or other grown-ups for answers. They think older people know everything there is to know. Of course, that is far from the truth. Today's lesson serves as a good reminder that all of us are still learning, and that we can make mistakes.

Sometimes, our students ask questions that stump us. Rather than pretending to know the answer and make up something to brush them off, we should be honest and tell them we don't know. But we should

not leave it at that. We should also make the effort to find out the answer and then follow through by letting them know the correct information. This helps the students know that 1) we are still learning, 2) we are honest, and 3) we will follow through with what we say we are going to do. These are important characters for them to pick up on. Teachers often share these messages as they teach their lessons, but there is no better way for the students to learn than through real-life examples. When we show them that we are human just like them, but are continuing to grow in faith and character, then they will be encouraged and strengthened in their walk of faith too.



Vocabulary

Salvation

to be saved; to go to heaven one day

Repent

to ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done

Baptize

to have one's sins washed away and become a Christian



Before You Teach

Apollos had been "instructed in the way of the Lord...though he knew only the baptism of John" (Acts 18:25). Even though Apollos was a fervent believer, he did not know about the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, the resurrection, the ascension, and the Holy Spirit. So when he boldly preached in Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and explained the complete Christian faith to him. Though this seems like an ordinary encounter between several people who loved God, their actions are wonderful examples for us today.

Apollos is described as an eloquent and knowledgeable speaker. He probably spoke with confidence and was respected by his peers. The Bible doesn't record what his exact reaction was to Aquila and Priscilla, who approached him and corrected him on a subject he supposedly knew a lot about. But we can imagine that he humbled himself and received the truth with joy because he wanted to continue God's work in Corinth.

Often, it is hard for a person to accept rebuke and correction, especially if he has expertise in that area. But Apollos demonstrated true Christian character by obeying the Spirit. Instead of arguing with Aquila and Priscilla, he listened to them and realized that what he was preaching was inadequate. He continued preaching, only now he was equipped with the complete truth.

Aquila and Priscilla are described as a couple who loved and served God. When they met Apollos and realized that he did not have the complete truth, they decided they needed to speak to him. We don't know exactly the words that were exchanged, but again, we can imagine the couple using gentle words of encouragement to strengthen Apollos' faith. Although they knew they had the truth on their side, they did not make themselves out to be more superior.

Sometimes, when we know we are right, we tend to rub things in, but that is not always the best way to help someone. God teaches us to obey His commands and follow His will, but to do so with a gentle spirit. Let us be strengthened by the examples of these workers of God.



Bible Story

In our last few lessons, we learned about the early church. Many people came to believe in Jesus and were baptized. The church was growing. The apostles and other workers continued to travel to more places so that more people could hear about Jesus. One of the workers was called Paul. We learned that he was a missionary. That means he traveled to different places to preach. We also learned that he preached to people like Timothy and Lydia, who came to believe in Jesus. Both Timothy and Lydia were good followers. Timothy later traveled with Paul to help him spread the good news. Lydia didn't travel with Paul, but she opened her home so that all the believers who lived in her city could go to her house and worship God together there.

Today we are going to learn about a few more people who came to believe in Jesus Christ and how they worked for Him.

Paul Meets Aquila and Priscilla

Paul was a very important worker for Jesus. After he came to know Jesus, he did not stop preaching the good news. He wanted to make sure everyone got a chance to hear about Jesus and His salvation.

Even though Paul loved to work for God, he also had a regular job, just like the ones your moms and dads have. Usually from Mondays to Fridays, your parents have to get up early in the morning and get ready to go to work. Well, Paul also had to go to work. Can you guess what his job was? (Allow students time to share.) Paul was a tentmaker. That means he made tents and sold them. That was his job and that was how he made money. But because he loved Jesus so much, he spent the time he wasn't working on his tents preaching the good news. It was like he had two jobs.

One day, Paul traveled to a city called Corinth. He went there to tell others about what Jesus did. He wanted people to repent and be baptized in Jesus' name so that they could be saved. When he arrived there, he met a couple named Aquila and Priscilla. They were very nice people. They also believed in God, and they even had the same job as Paul. They were tentmakers too. Paul was glad he met these people. They invited Paul to stay with them. Paul was

very thankful that they offered to let him live in their house. So while Paul was in Corinth, he worked with Aquila and Priscilla together, making tents. Then when he wasn't working on the tents, he traveled around the city and told people about Jesus.

Paul Worships God

Every Sabbath, Paul went to worship God in the synagogue. The synagogue was where the people went on Saturdays to worship God, just like when we go to church. When he was there, he talked to the people about Jesus. Some of them were not Christians. They did not know about how Jesus died on the cross to save us. So Paul tried his best to tell them about Jesus' love.

Paul stayed in Corinth for a long time. While he was there, he talked to many people about Jesus, and a lot of them believed and were baptized. After a year and a half, Paul left Corinth and went to another place called Ephesus. Aquila and Priscilla went with him too. They saw how Paul worked so hard at tent-making and at telling others about Jesus. They wanted to help spread the good news too.

Aquila and Priscilla Hear About Apollos

After arriving in Ephesus, Paul stayed there for a while. Then the Spirit of God told him to go somewhere else. But this time, Aquila and Priscilla did not go with him. They decided to stay in Ephesus and continue to preach the good news about Jesus.

While Aquila and Priscilla stayed at Ephesus, they heard about a great preacher named Apollos. They heard from other people that he knew a lot about the Old Testament, about God. He was a very good speaker too. But he did not know very much about Jesus--how He died, rose again, and went to heaven. So even though he said a lot of wonderful things about God, he didn't tell anyone about Jesus because he didn't know about Him. So Aquila and Priscilla wanted to find him and help him learn some things he didn't know.

Aquila and Priscilla Teach Apollos

Priscilla and Aquila went to the places where Apollos might be preaching about God. When they found him, they told him that they had some things to tell him about God and His kingdom. Even though Apollos already knew a lot about God, he

was glad he could learn even more. So Apollos probably went to where Aquila and Priscilla were staying so they could tell him about Jesus. They told him what Jesus did when He was on earth, and how He died on the cross to save all people. They also told him how Jesus came back to life on the third day, and how He appeared to the disciples. Apollos probably heard how Jesus commanded His followers to preach the good news to all the people in the world. After listening to Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos understood that Jesus was God. Apollos was glad to learn these things about Jesus. Now he knew he had to tell people about Jesus.

After talking to Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos understood God's word and he told many people about Jesus. He was very brave and spoke the things he knew about God and Jesus. And many people came to believe and were baptized after hearing him speak.

Aquila and Priscilla Love Jesus

Priscilla and Aquila were faithful to Jesus. That means they loved Him and did their best for Him. They helped Paul when he was staying with them in Corinth. They also helped Apollos understand the

word of God while they were in Ephesus. Many people came to know Jesus because of them. They showed love to the brothers and sisters by opening their home for worship. They probably shared many things with all the believers. Paul even wrote a letter in the Bible saying that Aquila and Priscilla risked their lives to save his life. We don't know what happened, but Paul said he was thankful to them. This really showed that Aquila and Priscilla were good helpers of God. They loved God by showing their love to the people

We Can Love God Too

In this lesson, we learned about people who were brave and faithful workers of God. We learned about Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos. We can be like them too. We don't have to do big things, like travel to another country to tell others about Jesus. We can do smaller things, like open our homes for family service, tell our friends about Jesus, and follow His commands to love one another. When we do these things, it makes God happy because He sees how much we love Him. Let's pray and ask God to help us be good followers.



Check For Understanding

1. **Who did Paul stay with when he was in Corinth?** (Aquila and Priscilla.)
2. **What did Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla do to make money?** (They were tentmakers.)
3. **Who did Aquila and Priscilla help when they were in Ephesus?** (Apollos.)
4. **What did Aquila and Priscilla teach**

Apollos? (They taught him about Jesus-- how He died, rose again, and went to heaven to save us.)

5. **How were Priscilla and Aquila good workers for God?** (They helped Paul, Apollos, and many brothers and sisters. They served God with love.)
6. **How can we be good helpers for God?** (Allow students to answer. Suggestions: share their things, give tithes, open their homes for family service, etc.)



Life Application Story

Learning to Be a Good Teacher

Both Lisa and Ben just got back from school. Lisa goes to junior high and Ben is in the fourth grade. It was a Wednesday. On Wednesdays, Nicole

takes Susie to gymnastics class in the afternoon. So Lisa and Ben knew they would be home with their mom until dinner time. They knew their routine. They could have a small snack, and then it would be homework time.

Lisa had just finished drinking her milk and rinsing her cup when she saw Ben slump down on the chair next to the kitchen table. Lisa had noticed

that Ben looked unhappy since coming back from school. She wondered if something had happened at school.

"What's the matter, Ben?" she asked.

"Nothing," Ben answered.

"Well, your face says something is bothering you," Lisa replied.

"You wouldn't understand," Ben said softly.

"Well, I might not, but it might make you feel better to say it out loud. That's what Mom always tells me."

"Well, if you have to know, I got a C on my last math test. I got it back today. Mr. Mathers says there's going to be a make-up test next week so that I can show him I can do better. But I don't think I am going to be better, no matter what I do," Ben answered.

"How do you know you won't get a better grade?" Lisa asked, as she sat next to him.

"I just don't understand how to do some of the math problems. Some of them are too hard. Or maybe I am just not good in math. I studied, but I guess I am just not good enough," Ben said.

"Don't say that, Ben. At least you tried. You should feel good that you tried. Here, let me take a look at the problems," Lisa offered. She opened up Ben's math binder and looked at the math problems.

"You know, Ben, I think I can help you with these. I don't have a lot of homework today. Maybe if you practice with me, you can understand the questions better," Lisa said.

"Really? You are going to help me?" Ben asked, a little bit surprised.

"Sure, why not? Nicole helps me when I don't understand my homework," Lisa replied.

"Does this mean I don't need to tell Mom about my C?" Ben asked.

"No, it doesn't," Mrs. Lim answered.

"Mom " Ben said. "I didn't know you were in the kitchen."

"I wasn't. I was walking to the garage to find something when I overheard what you two were saying," Mrs. Lim said.

"I am sorry I got a C, Mom," Ben said.

"Don't be sorry about getting a C. I heard you tell your sister that you tried your best. Maybe there are just some things you are confused on. I am glad your sister is offering to help you under-

stand the things you are not sure about," Mrs. Lim said, as she looked over to Lisa.

"So you are not mad?" Ben asked again.

"No I am not. I am glad you told someone. And I am proud that Lisa is helping you. It makes her a good sister. It reminds me of the story in the New Testament about Apollos."

"Who's Apollos?" asked Ben.

"Apollos was a believer of God. He was a very good speaker, and he went to many places telling people to believe in God. But he didn't know about Jesus yet. So, he was a little bit like you. He tried very hard to tell people about heaven, but he didn't really understand all of what he had to say," explained Mrs. Lim.

"So then what happened?" Lisa asked.

"Well, two people, a husband and wife called Aquila and Priscilla, taught him about Jesus. It is kind of like Lisa teaching you to do the hard math problems. And once Apollos understood what they taught him, he continued to do God's work, only now, he could tell people about Jesus too "

"Wow, I guess he learned pretty fast," Ben said.

"Yes, but the most important thing was that he was willing to learn what he didn't know. He was willing to be taught. That's the only way to grow," Mrs. Lim said.

"Okay, Lisa. I am ready to tackle those problems " Ben announced. "I want to get an A on my test next week."

"That's the attitude That makes me proud, and it makes Jesus proud," Mrs. Lim said.

Questions to Think About

1. **What was Ben sad about?** (He didn't get a good grade on his math test, and he didn't think he could do better.)
2. **What do you have a hard time doing?** (Allow students to share. Some suggestions: homework, practicing piano, cleaning up the room, etc.)
3. **Is it better to give up or to keep learning?** (Allow students to share.)
4. **How can we ask God to help us when we are having a hard time learning something?** (We can pray to Him for strength and a good attitude.)



Activity 1

Aquila and Priscilla Teach Apollos

Put the pictures in the right order. The first one has been done for you.

1. Aquila and Priscilla make tents with Paul.
2. Aquila and Priscilla travel with Paul on his missionary journey.
3. Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos about Jesus.
4. Apollos preaches about Jesus.



Activity 2

What Should Our Attitude Be?

Look at the pictures. Who has the right attitudes? Who does not? Talk about the reasons. Which examples should we follow?

1. A child says to a grown-up, "I don't need your help." What could she say instead?
2. A child is next to another child and says, "I know more than you." What could she say instead?
3. A child asks a grown-up for help tying his shoes.
4. An older child helps a younger one with math homework. How are these the right attitudes?



Activity 3

Jesus Wants Me For a Sunbeam

Sing the following hymn with the students. Review the lyrics. Talk about the attitudes that are presented in the hymn and challenge the students to do the same each day, no matter where they are or what they are doing

Note to teacher: the tune can be located at www.biblestudycharts.com/CH_Jesus_Wants_Me_For_A_Sunbeam.html

Verse 1

*Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for Him each day;
In every way try to please Him,
At home, at school, at play.*

CHORUS:

*A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.*

Verse 2

*Jesus wants me to be loving,
And kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy
His little one can be.*

CHORUS:

*A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.*

Verse 3

*I will ask Jesus to help me,
To keep my heart from sin;
Ever reflecting His goodness,
And always shine for Him.*

CHORUS:

*A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.*

Verse 4

*I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus;
I can if I but try;
Serving Him moment by moment,
Then live with Him on high.*

CHORUS:

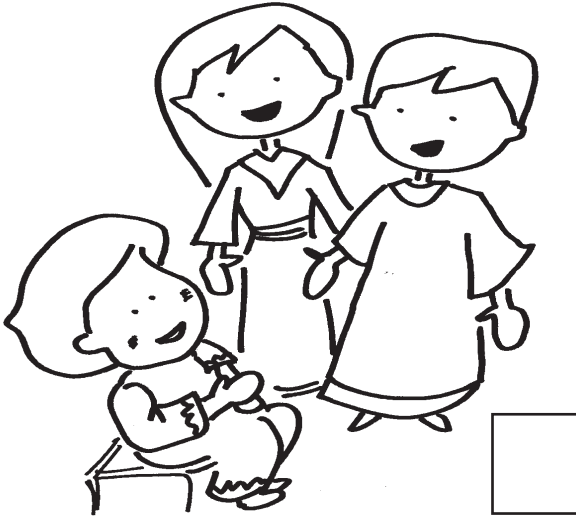
*A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.*

Activity 12:1

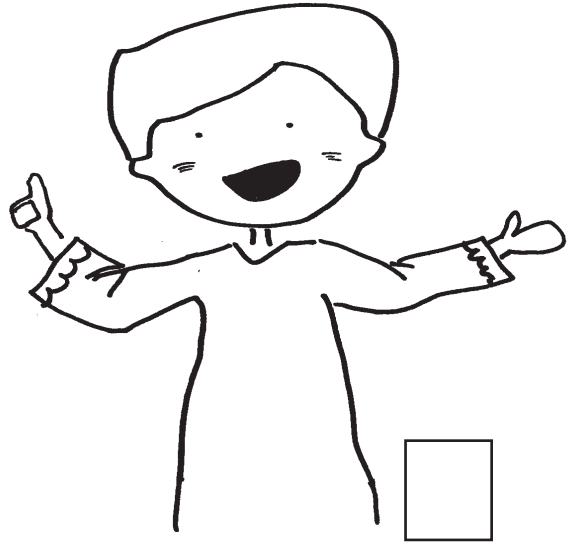
Aquila and Priscilla Teach Apollos

Put the pictures in the right order. The first one has been done for you.

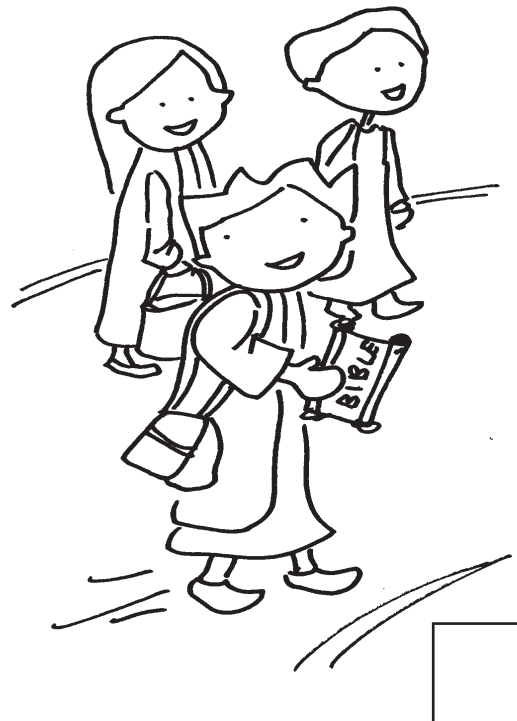
Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos about Jesus.



Apollos preaches about Jesus.



Aquila and Priscilla make tents with Paul.



Aquila and Priscilla travel with Paul on his missionary trip.

Activity 12:2

What Should Our Attitude Be?

Look at the pictures. Who has the right attitudes? Who does not? Talk about the reasons. Which examples should we follow?

