

Aquila and Priscilla

Passages: Acts 18

Memory Verse

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15b)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
God desires for our families to be God-centered so that we can serve Him faithfully.	God is our heavenly Father.	Serve God together in unity.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Partners in Sharing the Gospel
- B. Partners in Showing Love

Life Application: Unity in the Family

Testimony

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Let us strive to emulate Aquila and Priscilla in our families, in the hopes that our household can be just like theirs—a place where God abides.

Introduction

In the Bible, Aquila and Priscilla are always mentioned together. We can see this in Acts 18 and in Paul's epistles (Rom 16:3–5; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19). Aquila and Priscilla demonstrate the importance of a God-centered family, and how wonderful it is when a husband and wife are able to serve the Lord together as one because of their unified faith. Today, we will be learning from Aquila and Priscilla's servitude, and how they were able to work together to further the work of the kingdom of God.

A. Partners in Sharing the Gospel

1. Had the same focus in life

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

(Acts 18:1–3)

Although Aquila and Priscilla had been forced out of Rome, their circumstances gave them an opportunity to work alongside Paul in the city of Corinth. As tentmakers, the pair had work to do every day, but they never failed to prioritize God. They were able to balance the different aspects of their lives so that apart from successfully fulfilling their daily responsibilities, they also remained faithful workers for the Lord. Despite their difficult situation, they found a way to make a living while also serving God.

Putting God first does not mean neglecting other responsibilities, but rather managing our time well. We have to find a balance between the different aspects of our lives so that we spend an appropriate amount of time worshiping God, while still spending time on our education and our family. Whether it is school, family, or our spiritual life, we have many responsibilities, so we need to learn how to prioritize. This can be difficult, especially when many responsibilities overlap in date or time. However, we must understand that our first priority should be to cultivate our relationship with God.

*So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, **and Priscilla and Aquila were with him**. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus, **and left them there**; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.*

(Acts 18:18–19)

Aquila and Priscilla were on the same page in terms of their servitude. They both understood the importance of serving God, proven in their willingness to uproot their lives a second time to travel with Paul to Syria and continue working for the Lord. They had a beautiful partnership and dedicated their lives to further the gospel. When they came to Ephesus, they remained there to preach the gospel while Paul sailed onwards to Caesarea.

Let's now read Acts 18:24–28.

2. Knowledgeable in the truth

So [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

(Acts 18:26)

Apollos hailed from Alexandria, a cultural and educational center at the time, and was described as an “eloquent man,” “mighty in the Scriptures,” and “fervent in spirit” (Acts 18:24–25). But Aquila and Priscilla were not intimidated by his knowledge, boldness, or eloquence. Instead, they demonstrated their own knowledge of the truth: first, in realizing that Apollos’ knowledge was incomplete, and second, in helping him gain a more accurate understanding of the gospel. As a result of the couple’s actions, Apollos went on to serve the Lord better, “vigorously [refuting] the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 18:28).

This incident shows us that Aquila and Priscilla viewed preaching the complete word of God as highly important. Moreover, they were able to discern Apollos’ mistake and correct him only because they were well versed in the word of God. As Apollos was an educated Jew well versed in the Scriptures, we can infer from his acceptance that Aquila and Priscilla were able to convey the truth accurately.

Today, it is important that we properly prepare ourselves to explain the truth. Not only must we know the truth, but we must also know when someone is not preaching the complete truth. This requires that we have a deep understanding of the truth, and a strong conviction in our beliefs. Having both of these together gives us strength from above so that we will not be easily swayed. Through this, God can use us as vessels to mentor and help others, and we will be able to save ourselves and those who hear us (1 Tim 4:16).

Their shared faith and knowledge made Aquila and Priscilla partners in sharing the gospel. But their partnerships did not end there; they planted and watered the seed of the gospel with faithful coworkers such as Paul, while God gave the increase (1 Cor 3:7–8). In the same way, we are not alone in our service to God, so we must not think that we are. God’s intention is for people to work together in unity as the body of Christ. There are many opportunities for us to serve together and help one another, whether with our family or with brothers and sisters. In all these different areas of pastoring or evangelizing, God has given us the opportunity to work for Him together as one body of Christ.

B. Partners in Showing Love

1. Showed love towards the workers of God

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

(Romans 16:3–4)

Aquila and Priscilla showed great love towards the workers of God. Not only were they willing to risk their lives for Paul, but more importantly, they were united in this decision. There was a possibility that they could be hurt or even killed, but they were both still willing to make the sacrifice. John 15:13 records, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” For Aquila and Priscilla, their willingness to sacrifice their lives to save Paul is proof of their love for him and for God.

Consider this: would we be willing to lay down our lives for any of our friends? Aquila and

Priscilla were able to have that heart of sacrifice because they truly loved God and, in turn, His workers. This is the love that we should have for our brothers and sisters. Today, as we serve together in the church of God, we need to think about what we can do for others instead of thinking only of our own benefit. When we are able to feel that kind of love for our brothers and sisters, we will be able to see the work of God truly flourish and grow.

2. Had a church in their house

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

(1 Corinthians 16:19)

Aquila and Priscilla displayed the kind of unity that could only come from a life of faith. It is this unity that allowed them to have a church in their house. What did it mean that they had a church in their house? On the surface, it likely meant that members gathered to worship at their house. However, on a deeper level, their house was a place where God resided. Just as a church is dedicated to the Lord, a house can likewise be given to God and become a place of peace and harmony. It can become a place where God's spirit dwells.

A God-centered household is one that is unified in faith and serves the Lord together (Josh 24:15). In Acts 16, salvation was brought not only to Lydia and the Philippian jailer, but also their families, who were all baptized after receiving the gospel. Cornelius, after being instructed by God to send for Peter, gathered not only his relatives, but also his close friends to listen to the gospel (Acts 10:24). As a result, all of them received the Holy Spirit and were baptized. These examples, along with Aquila and Priscilla, show us the importance not only of sharing our faith with family members, but also of keeping the faith together. By maintaining a family altar, we too can have a church in our house.

Aquila and Priscilla were able to be true partners in God's ministry because they shared the same faith. As a result, they were mentioned by Paul many times. Their unity in their worship and servitude towards God allowed them to become great workers for the Lord and a wonderful example for us today. From their partnership, we can see that sharing the same faith and beliefs is vital in any relationship, whether it is with our friends, our family, or our future spouse. Though it will be some time before our marriage, it is important to remember to look for someone who shares the same beliefs and faith as ours. Aquila and Priscilla's shared beliefs was the key to being able to serve God together faithfully.

Check for Understanding

1. **What was the focus of Aquila and Priscilla's life?** Their focus in life was to preach the gospel.
2. **How were Aquila and Priscilla partners in the sharing of the gospel?** They were unified in their worship of God, their knowledge of the gospel, and their preaching of the gospel. They served together with Paul.
3. **How do we know that Aquila and Priscilla were knowledgeable in the truth?** They were able to realize what truth Apollos was missing and then explain it thoroughly to him.
4. **How did they show love to a worker of God?** They were willing to risk their lives for Paul.
5. **What does it mean to have a church in your house?** When you have a church in your house, God's presence abides in it, and your house is a place of harmony and peace.

Life Application

Unity in the Family

Apart from Aquila and Priscilla, the Bible provides many examples of different kinds of families. Let us look at three examples to see the importance of having a God-centered family who serves together.

1. Sapphira and Ananias (Acts 5:1–11) – United in deception

Sapphira and Ananias were united, but in the wrong way. They were united in their deception to God, not their worship of God. They kept a portion of the money that they had received from selling their possessions but told Peter that they had given everything. They cared more about how they appeared to others rather than about being honest regarding their offering to the Lord. When they lied to Peter, they actually lied to God. As punishment, the Lord struck both of them with death.

2. Elimelech and Naomi (Ruth 1:1–5) – United in their lack of faith

When he encountered a famine in the land of Israel, Elimelech took his family and departed for a Gentile land. His wife Naomi accompanied him even though this decision was drawing them away from God's promised land. As a family, they lacked faith in God, seeing only the severe famine and not the great power that God had over nature. They resorted to solving this problem using human means. Consequently, Naomi became a widow, and her two sons died as well.

3. Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1:18–25) – United in faithfulness to God's law

Joseph was an upright man, and Mary was the one that God had chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. Together, they made sure to follow the laws that God had set for them. Though they were not wealthy or of high social status, God looked at their obedient hearts and made the decision to use them as the vessels to raise Jesus. They understood the responsibility that had been given to them and the two of them worked together to raise Jesus Christ so that He grew in favor with God and man.

From these examples, we can see how families are not always united in the correct decisions. It is important for us to be unified for the right reasons within our own families. Our unity needs to stem from our shared faith in God and from placing God, not our selfish desires, at the center of our family. When we are able to maintain a family altar and have a God-centered family, He will guide us through times of peace and through times of difficulty. This is the blessing that comes upon a family that is unified in their servitude and love towards God.

Discussion

- In what ways is your family united?
- Is your family God-centered? Why or why not?
- What are ways your family can improve and establish a church in your house?

Testimony

Today, I would like to testify of God's great mercy. It is one of the greatest mercies I have received in my life: His work in changing my family's relationships and helping us to grow by building a family altar.

Many of you may not have established a family altar. Perhaps you think it's not something under your control because your parents haven't started one. However, our family altar began with my younger sister. It's not that my parents didn't want to develop one. Over the years, we randomly came together for Bible studies or prayers here and there. However, we were not able to maintain

them regularly. A big part of its lack of success was because my sister and I were not proactive and always had to be called to attend.

When we were in high school, my sister came to talk to me one day, saying that she felt that God didn't just want us to experience heaven in heaven, but that we should be able to experience heaven in our family. I had never thought of families this way before she said that.

In my family, my dad and I understood each other better, while my sister and my mom got along better. I never really thought too much about it – I thought it a matter of course. My sister never understood my dad's jokes, while my mom and I fought more—I did not take her nagging well. I always felt she was harder on me and I could never do enough to get her approval. It wasn't as seriously bad as other families, but I couldn't imagine it any differently.

My sister was prompted into action because something bothered her. When my dad came home, he would come to say hi to me in my room, then go to his room without greeting my sister. I didn't think that it was something he did purposely, and tried to explain, saying that maybe he grouped the two of us together. However, I had no good explanation to give her. She asked me to pray together with her for our family and I agreed. We started to pray together daily for our family, not really knowing or imagining how things could change.

Then that summer, originally we were going to go on a family trip to Taiwan, but it turned out that my sister had to stay back because of SAT classes and my dad because of business. So it would only be my mom and I going to Taiwan. I remember the day when this was decided, my sister and I excitedly talked to each other and said, "Wow, maybe our months of prayer worked and this was it." God was providing the opportunity for our family to come to a better understanding.

The day came for our trip. When we landed, we were shopping on the streets in Taiwan and I bravely brought up the subject and poured out my heart to my mom. I told her I always felt like I never felt that I was good enough. And I remember her response at the end of all that was, "Let's go into this store." I was crushed and disappointed. That night, I remember tearfully telling my uncle how disappointed I was. He comforted me, telling me that though my mom didn't say anything, she was thinking about it. The entire trip we didn't speak of it again, but during our flight back I brought it up once again. This time she responded and told me what was in her heart. She admitted that as parents, you don't always know the best way to teach your child. She then told me the purpose behind her nagging—her desire for what was best for me. We finally came to understand each other.

Meanwhile, my sister and my dad did not have any heart-to-heart talks. However, my dad tried his best to cook for her and it warmed my sister's heart that he would try to make different dishes for her. Moreover, he always came home at 5 pm every day to eat with her.

This was the turning point for both of our relationships with our parents. God can change a relationship that has been this way for almost twenty years. All the baggage that can come with family can be removed with God's help.

My mom had tried to do family altar on and off since we were kids. But it always died off. This time, we decided to do something different. We would take turns leading the family altar and the format could be much more flexible. It didn't always have to be Bible reading. Instead, we could ask one question to our dad, or simply sing hymns. We learned about our dad's past and his experiences with

God, and we would always end with a family prayer. We maintained our family altar for two years, and this time our hearts drew closer.

Today, do you believe that your family can be like heaven? If you don't, it will stay the same. I can't imagine what my family would have been like if my sister had never had that belief!

- Anonymous

Memory Verse

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15b)

Meaning

1. After Joshua brought the Israelites to the land of Canaan, he asked the Israelites to choose whom they were going to serve: Were they going to serve the Lord? Or false gods?
2. Joshua had already made the convicted decision that not only would he serve the Lord, but his family was also going to serve the one true God. This shows us that although our own relationship with God is important, the faith of our house is of equal value to Him, and it must be nurtured.

Conclusion

Aquila and Priscilla’s amazing servitude came not only from their faithfulness in preaching the gospel, but also from their unity. Let us strive to emulate Aquila and Priscilla in our families, in the hopes that our household can be just like theirs—a place where God abides.

Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What is the context of the memory verse? What does this tell us about the importance of the faith of our house?
Joshua told the Israelites to choose whom they were going to serve: God or idols. This tells us that although our personal relationship with God is important, the faith of our house is of equal value and needs to be nurtured.
2. How were Aquila and Priscilla faithful workers for the Lord?
Although they had work to do every day, they never failed to prioritize God.
3. What does it mean to prioritize God in our lives? How do we do this?
It does not mean neglecting our responsibilities, but rather balancing the different aspects of our lives and putting God first. It means managing our time well.
4. How do we know that Aquila and Priscilla were knowledgeable in the truth?
They were able to realize what truth Apollos was missing and then explain it thoroughly to him.
5. What does it mean to have a church in your house?
When you have a church in your house, your house is a place where God resides, dedicated to God to be a place where God's spirit dwells. Your family is also a God-centered household, one that is unified in faith and serves the Lord together by both sharing and keeping the same faith.
6. Is your family united in faith? What steps can you take to improve your unity so that you can establish a church in your home?
Personal answers.