Preschool–Grade 6

Priscilla and Aquila

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Priscilla and Aquila served God together in their everyday work and in their home, and they kindly helped Apollos learn the way of God more perfectly. We can serve God together and help others learn His way.
Bible passage: Acts 18:1–4, 18:18–19 and 18:24–26. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." *Acts 18:26 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Better Together (5–10 minutes)

Read each job. Kids stand up if it is easier to do with someone, and stay seated if it is easy alone: 1) carrying a heavy table; 2) tying your shoe; 3) setting up a big tent; 4) learning a hard math problem; 5) cleaning the whole church after a dinner. Ask: *Why are some jobs better together? What happens when someone kindly helps you understand something you only partly knew?* Say: "Today we'll meet a husband and wife who worked together, served God together, and helped a great preacher learn more."

2. Bible story: The Way of God More Perfectly (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Acts 18. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

In Corinth. Look up Acts 18:1–2. Paul came from Athens to Corinth and found a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had lately come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because the emperor Claudius had commanded all Jews to leave Rome. **Look up Acts 18:3.** Paul was of the same **craft** (the same kind of work), so he **abode** (stayed) with them and **wrought** (worked): they were **tentmakers**. Every sabbath Paul **reasoned** in the synagogue, talking with Jews and Greeks and **persuading** them (18:4). He testified that Jesus was Christ (18:5), and he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God (18:11).

To Ephesus. Look up Acts 18:18–19. Paul **tarried** (stayed) a good while, then sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila went with him. At Ephesus he left them there.

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Apollos. Look up Acts 18:24. A Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was **eloquent** (a very good speaker) and **mighty in the scriptures** (he knew God's Word well). **Look up Acts 18:25.** He had been taught the way of the Lord, he was **fervent in the spirit** (full of zeal), and he taught **diligently** (carefully), but he knew only the **baptism of John**. John baptized people with the baptism of repentance and told them to believe on Christ Jesus, who would come after him (19:4).

Taught more perfectly. Look up Acts 18:26. Apollos spoke boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they **took him unto them** and **expounded** (explained) the way of God **more perfectly**, more fully and correctly. After that, Apollos went to Achaia and helped the believers much, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ (18:27–28).

What came next. In the next chapter, Paul came back to Ephesus and found disciples who knew only John's baptism. When they heard about Jesus, "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Then the Holy Ghost came on them, "and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:1–6).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos speak, then "took him unto them" (Acts 18:26). Why do you think they talked with him that way, instead of correcting him in front of everyone?
2. Apollos was a great speaker and knew the scriptures, but he still had more to learn (18:24–25). What does that teach us about learning God's Word?
3. Priscilla and Aquila worked as tentmakers and served God too (18:3, 18:26). How can you serve God at school or at home, not only at church?
4. Apollos listened and learned. How do you act when someone shows you something you didn't know?
5. Who is someone you could help learn about God this week?

Recall questions

1. Where had Aquila and Priscilla come from? *(Italy, Acts 18:2)*
2. How long did Paul stay in Corinth? *(A year and six months, 18:11)*
3. In what city did Apollos meet Priscilla and Aquila? *(Ephesus, 18:24–26)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **boldly** means without being afraid, **synagogue** means the meeting place where the Jews read God's Word, **whom** here means Apollos, **took him unto them** means brought him to be with them, **expounded** means explained, and **more perfectly** means more fully and correctly. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, and he listened and learned the way of God more perfectly (Acts 18:24–26). God wants each of us to know His way fully. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, just like the disciples in Ephesus (Acts 19:5). **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4; 19:6). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: serve God together with someone: help a family member with a job, or help a friend learn a Bible verse.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Acts 18:1: What city did Paul come from before Corinth? *(Athens)*
2. Acts 18:2: Where was Aquila born? *(Pontus)*
3. Acts 18:3: What was their occupation? *(Tentmakers)*
4. Acts 18:4: When did Paul reason in the synagogue? *(Every sabbath)*
5. Acts 18:19: Where did Paul leave Priscilla and Aquila? *(Ephesus)*
6. Acts 18:24: Where was Apollos born? *(Alexandria)*
7. Acts 18:25: What was the only baptism Apollos knew? *(The baptism of John)*
8. Acts 18:26: What did Priscilla and Aquila expound unto Apollos? *(The way of God more perfectly)*

Or choose the **Priscilla and Aquila word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/priscilla-and-aquila-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/priscilla-and-aquila-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/priscilla-and-aquila-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/priscilla-and-aquila-worksheet).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Priscilla and Aquila, who served You together in their work and in their home. Help us learn Your way more perfectly, listen when others teach us, and kindly help others learn it too. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

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