Preschool–Grade 6

Priscilla and Aquila

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Ordinary, hardworking believers can serve God together, and help others learn the way of God more perfectly, with kindness and with the Word.
Bible passage: Acts 18:1–4, 18:18–19 and 18:24–26. Students read it out loud themselves.
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)* and "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour." *Ecclesiastes 4:9 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Acts 18 and Acts 19:1–6. Write both memory verses on the board.

1. Opening game: Who Taught You? (5–10 minutes)

Go around the room. Each student names one thing someone taught them (riding a bike, a recipe, a Bible verse, a sport) and who taught them. Write the "who" list on the board. Ask: *Which of these people were famous? Which ones just cared enough to show you?* Say: "Today we meet a husband and wife who made tents for a living, and who taught one of the best preachers of their day."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Acts 18:1–4, 18:18–19 and 18:24–28. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **craft** (18:3): kind of work; **abode**: stayed; **wrought**: worked; **occupation**: job
- **reasoned** (18:4): talked it through with them; **persuaded**: convinced
- **tarried** (18:18): stayed; **took his leave of the brethren**: said goodbye to the believers
- **eloquent** (18:24): a skillful speaker; **mighty in the scriptures**: knew God's Word well
- **fervent in the spirit** (18:25): full of zeal; **diligently**: carefully
- **took him unto them** (18:26): brought him to be with them; **expounded**: explained; **more perfectly**: more fully and correctly
- **Achaia** (18:27): the region where Corinth was; **publickly** (18:28): in public

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Then read Acts 19:1–6 together. At Ephesus, Paul found disciples who knew only John's baptism. Paul explained that John told people to believe on Christ Jesus. "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." When Paul laid his hands on them, "the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." (The Bible doesn't say whether Apollos was there; teach only what it says.)

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers (Acts 18:3), not famous preachers. What does their story say about who God can use?
2. They heard Apollos and "took him unto them" (18:26) instead of correcting him in public. What does that teach about helping someone who has part of the truth?
3. Apollos was eloquent and mighty in the scriptures, yet he received teaching (18:24–26). Why does humility matter, even for gifted people?
4. Compare Acts 18:25 and Acts 19:1–6. Why do you think the Bible shows us the difference between John's baptism and being baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus?
5. Paul later called them "my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks" and greeted "the church that is in their house" (Romans 16:3–5). What did serving God together look like for them?
6. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are better than one." Who could you serve God with this week, and how?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Acts 18:26: **boldly** means without fear; **synagogue** means the Jewish meeting place; **took him unto them** means brought him to be with them; **expounded** means explained; **more perfectly** means more fully and correctly. In Ecclesiastes 4:9, **labour** means work.

Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Acts 18:26 this week; keep working on Ecclesiastes 4:9 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, and he learned the way of God more perfectly (18:24–26). The disciples in Acts 19 did the same: when they heard, they obeyed. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4; 19:6). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Who has helped me learn the way of God? Write one thing they taught me, and thank God for them.
2. Is there something about God's way I want to understand more perfectly? Who could I ask?
3. Who could I serve God with this week, like Priscilla and Aquila? What will we do?
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: thank someone who taught you about God, and do one job together with someone to serve others.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for ordinary people like Priscilla and Aquila, who worked hard and served You together. Help us stay humble and keep learning Your way more perfectly, and help us kindly share it with others. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: The Bible names them both ways: "Aquila and Priscilla" (Acts 18:26; 1 Corinthians 16:19) and "Priscilla and Aquila" (Acts 18:18; Romans 16:3). Teach what the passage says about them as a husband and wife who served together.

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