

Aquila and Priscilla



New Testament 3
Part 2: New Testament Teams (Cohorts)

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 18:1-3,18,19,26; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "...ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["What You Have"](#)
- ["I'm a Hard Fighting Soldier"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 3 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

"Ordinary" people can do great things for Jesus by sharing what they have and sharing the Good News about Jesus with others. We also want to grow up and marry a Christian so that one day we can work as a team for the Lord and have a good, Christian home.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

We have been studying about New Testament partners who worked together to do the Lord's work. They worked as a team. Today, we are going to talk about a married couple that worked together to teach others about God. Aquila and Priscilla were Christians who shared what they had and looked for opportunities to tell others about Jesus. It is very important that you decide now that one day when you are older, you will marry a Christian who will help you do the Lord's work and help encourage you so you both (and your children) can go to heaven!

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Aquila was a Jewish Christian from Pontus (in Asia Minor near the Black Sea). He may have become a Christian on the day of Pentecost. Jews from Pontus were in Jerusalem on that day and heard Peter's first Gospel sermon (Acts 2:9). It is also possible that he and his wife Priscilla (or Prisca) may have been converted by Paul.



NOTE: Aquila and Priscilla are first mentioned in Acts 18, where they are described as refugees from Rome due to Emperor Claudius' order to expel all Jews from the capital of the Roman Empire (circa 49 A.D.).

2. Because they had been forced to leave Rome, Aquila and Priscilla were living in Corinth, working as tentmakers. When Paul came to Corinth for the first time, he lived with this couple and worked with them, since he also was a tentmaker. Paul stayed with them for a year and a half. When he was not making tents, Paul preached about Jesus tirelessly. Because of that, he was persecuted by the Jews.

HISTORICAL NOTE: "Tents were originally made from skins; only later were the skins replaced with goat's hair. A tentmaker was therefore a leatherworker, and the name stuck, even though leather was used to make bottles, belts, and military equipment such as helmets, shields, and slings. A tentmaker (or leatherworker) had first to skin the animal, then remove the hairs from the hide, make it supple for use, and sometimes dye it as well. The hairs were removed by a combination of scraping, soaking, and the application of lime. The hides were then soaked in water containing oak galls and sumac leaves, rubbed with dog manure, and hammered. The smell of the work was so bad that the tanner had to work outside the town in the direction of the prevailing wind, and it was so bad personally that it could become grounds for divorce. When the servants of Cornelius came looking for the house of Simon the tanner at Joppa, it would have been easy to find." [*The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*, p. 160]





HISTORICAL NOTE: “In the ancient economy, people of the same trade did not compete with one another as they do today. They usually lived together in the same part of town and formed trade guilds. Their trade guilds normally adopted a ‘patron deity,’ and they ate sacrificial food at their regular banquets together. This cultic orientation of trade guilds would exclude practicing Jews [and faithful Christians] from the fellowship, making Jews delighted to find other Jews of their own trade. By this period, the term translated ‘tentmaker’ was also applied to leatherworking in general. As a leatherworker, Paul would have been an artisan. Artisans were...higher than peasants in status and income; but they were despised by higher classes, who thought labor with one’s hands degrading.” [*The Bible Background Commentary*, p. 375].

3. Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla sailed to Syria and then to Ephesus. The hard-working husband and wife stayed in Ephesus, while Paul went on to other places to preach the Gospel. There they went to the synagogue and heard a powerful young speaker from Egypt named Apollos. Apollos knew a lot about the Old Testament scriptures and a lot about Jesus, and he was eager to share what he knew with others. But he didn’t understand everything as well as he needed to. So Priscilla and Aquila lovingly took him aside and “taught him the way of the Lord more accurately,” without hurting his enthusiasm or eagerness to preach.



NOTE: John’s baptism—Apollos “knew only the baptism of John” (Acts 18:25). John’s message and his baptism were to bring the Jews to repentance and to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah (Matthew 3:2; Luke 1:17; John 1:6-8,15,25,29-31; 3:3). His baptism followed repentance (Matthew 3:1-11; Luke 3:7-14), and was for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). Because the Jews were still living under the Mosaic Law until the death of Jesus, John’s baptism did **not** identify one with Christ or make one a part of His Body, the Church (Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12-13). It also did **not** follow the pattern of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, giving one new life, as described in Romans 6:3-5, since these events had not occurred yet. After Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, the baptism of Acts 2, Romans 6:3-5, Matthew 28:18-20, etc. was initiated. Acts 19:1-5 indicates that those who were baptized with John’s baptism had to be re-baptized in order to be in Christ.

4. Priscilla and Aquila later moved back to Rome and opened their home as a place for Christians to meet and worship (Romans 16:3-5; 1Corinthians 16:19).



NOTE: It was very common for early Christians to meet in homes. They spent their money feeding the poor and supporting missionaries. And there were times of persecution when the Roman government took their personal property or forced them to move. For those reasons, having church buildings was not an option—or a good idea—for the first 300 years of the Church’s history

5. Paul wrote of his great love and appreciation for this outstanding, hard-working, hospitable couple (Romans 16:3-5), because they had “risked their necks” to protect and help him (Acts 18). No doubt they risked their lives many times helping others as well, since they were such an active, involved Christian couple, no matter where they lived.

6. As far as we know, Aquila and Priscilla were not highly educated (as Paul was) or powerful public figures (as Paul was). They were “ordinary” people who worked hard at their jobs, tried to help others in any way they could, and taught others about Jesus everywhere they went. (They shared what they had and shared what they knew.) Most of us are “ordinary” people, too, but God expects us to “do good...ready to give, willing to share” like Aquila and Priscilla. God wants all of us to do our part. Read 1 John 3:16-18.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Aquila and Priscilla Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have cutouts (magazine and catalog pictures of clothing and food) for children to make “I Can Share with Others like Aquila and Priscilla” booklets. Make sure one page of the booklet has a picture or sticker of a Bible.
- Make a tent in the classroom and tell the Bible story inside of it.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Make a tent in the classroom and tell the Bible story inside of it.
- Ask children to bring canned goods to class for a few weeks to share with the needy. Let kids make cards with scriptures that they can attach to the canned goods.
- Instead of canned goods, ask children to bring items for children in a nearby children’s home or for children in your local hospital.
- Pick scriptures about being generous, like the following ones, for children to read aloud and discuss: Luke 3:11; Acts 4:32; 1 Timothy 6:18; Proverbs 22:4; Deuteronomy 15:7
- “[Aquila and Priscilla Help a Young Preacher](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[A Great Husband and Wife Team](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Make a tent in the classroom and tell the Bible story inside of it.
- Ask children to bring canned goods to class for a few weeks to share with the needy. Let kids make cards with scriptures that they can attach to the canned goods.
- Instead of canned goods, ask children to bring items for children in a nearby children’s home or for children in your local hospital.
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SONGS:

“WHAT YOU HAVE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: “Skip to My Lou”)

Do, do, good to o-thers. (3X)
Remember, do good to o-thers.

Share, share, share what you have. (3X)
Share what you have with o-thers.

Give, give, give from your heart. (3X)
Give from your heart to o-thers.

“I’M A HARD FIGHTING SOLDIER ON THE BATTLEFIELD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

I’m a hard fighting soldier on the battlefield. (3X)
I keep on bringin’ souls to Jesus,
By the service that I yield.

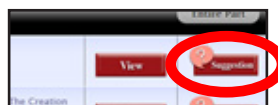
I’ve got a helmet on my head, in my hand a sword and shield. (3X)
I keep on bringin’ souls to Jesus,
By the service that I yield.

You gotta walk right, talk right, sing right, pray right, on the battlefield. (3X)
I keep on bringin’ souls to Jesus,
By the service that I yield.

If I die let me die in the service of my Lord, (3X)
I keep on bringin’ souls to Jesus,
By the service that I yield.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Pictures (from Internet, encyclopedia, etc) of early leather workers and their products

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

"Ordinary" people can do great things for Jesus by sharing what they have and sharing the Good News about Jesus with others. We also want to grow up and marry a Christian so that one day we can work as a team for the Lord and have a good, Christian home.



INTRODUCTION:

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Aquila and Priscilla were great partners in doing good. Talk with the kids about having a partner with whom they can do projects, think of ways to help others, encourage one another to do good, etc.
3. As is age appropriate, stress again the importance of marrying a Christian mate who will help them to be active in the Church and who will help them get to heaven.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson
- Discuss how the first century Christians shared what they had with others. They freely sold their possessions and gave the money to those who were in need. Have the children make a list of their “favorite” things at home. Then ask if they would be willing to share these things with another child. Ask them if they would be willing to actually give those things to others if they needed it. Emphasize how generous God expects us to be.
- Buy some leather scraps from a fabric store so that children can imagine making tents with the leather pieces. Holes may be punched on the outside of a leather piece and yarn or rope inserted, as if sewing.

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