

July 28, 2024

Bible Passage: Acts 18
(Paul with Priscilla and Aquila)



Jesus Is Master Remember Verse

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27

LESSON OVERVIEW

CONNECT//
10 minutes



Dream Vacation

SUPPLIES

- Name tags (2 per child)
- Markers

GATHER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Remember Verse
Puzzle

SUPPLIES

- Cardboard or poster board (1 [2' x 2'] piece for every 3–4 children)
- Markers
- Scissors

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions*
- Paul's Journeys blank map*
- Paul's Journeys completed map*
- Bibles
- Table (at least 6' long)
- Masking or painter's tape
- Electric table fan
- Ping-pong ball
- Disposable straw
- Colored pencils

Discussion Questions

RESPOND//
15 minutes



My Spiritual Journey

SUPPLIES

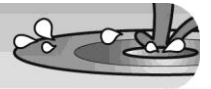
- My Spiritual Journey template*
- Pencils or pens

(Optional) Amoeba Tag

SUPPLIES

- None

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 8*
- Bible

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:
Customizable copy of Lesson 7 2018–19 Scope and Sequence
TruStory How It Works
Small Group Enhancement

At Home Weekly: Lesson 7

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

Inspire *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

Several years ago, my church changed locations and bought a building in a new neighborhood. I started feeling God's tug on my heart to move closer to the church in order to minister better. The only thing was—I was living in my dream apartment. The spacious layout, the abundant windows, the breathtaking view—they were all perfect, but they were a long distance away from where God wanted me.

The call to move fit in with the larger picture of what God was doing in my life at the time—teaching me about surrender, sacrifice, and the freedom of living for Him rather than myself. I remember standing in my room in my apartment and saying, “Okay, God, I want what You want. Wherever You lead me, I'm all in.” So, I packed up my belongings and followed God's lead. And you know what I have found? There is no better place to be than where God wants you. My old apartment was beautiful, but the relationships I formed by being able to live in close proximity to my church community were even more beautiful and rewarding.

Jesus is Master. Giving up our lives to follow Him can seem hard at first, but there is nothing more rich and satisfying than being where He is.

Kelly Goddard
HRock Church

Equip *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

Jesus is Master. We see this in Acts 18, where we read about a man and wife named Aquila and Priscilla. They were taken out of their comfort zone—forced to leave Rome and start over in Corinth.

It was AD 49. The Roman emperor Claudius had recently expelled all Jews from Rome. The Roman historian Suetonius noted this was in response to some disturbances “at the instigation of Chrestus” (a form of “Christ”). This probably referred to the opposition faced by Jewish Christians in Rome when they preached Christ as Messiah. So Priscilla and Aquila found themselves in Corinth.

After Priscilla and Aquila connected with Paul in Corinth and helped him found the church there, they traveled together to Ephesus. Paul then left the couple in Ephesus, where they encountered a powerful teacher named Apollos. Scripture says Apollos was “a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures” (Acts 18:24). However, his theological training was incomplete. He “taught about Jesus accurately” (v. 25) but apparently wasn't aware of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and taught him “the way of God more adequately” (v. 26).

In Acts 19, Paul encountered some disciples who had been instructed only about John's baptism—implying they had been taught by Apollos. Here we learn there were believers who had been exposed to the repentance called for by John the Baptist, and understood that Jesus was the Messiah, but hadn't learned of the giving of God's Spirit at Pentecost. Through both Apollos's teachable spirit and the gentle correction of Priscilla and Aquila, God corrected and inspired the believers in the early church. He led them to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, the Master of all.

Support *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Giving our lives over to Jesus can be one of the hardest processes we face as Christians—but also one of the most beautiful. When we die, we live. When we lose, we gain. Read Matthew 16:25. Of what area in your life is Jesus asking to be Master? On what new paths is He leading you?

To prepare your heart this week, go to a place that's significant for you. Perhaps it's up on a roof with a view, under a

tree in your backyard, or in the quietness of your bedroom. There, journal or pray as you take time to process how Jesus is leading you. Afterward, if you're ready to make the commitment to follow His leading, consider standing and saying your declaration out loud, the way a husband and wife would speak their wedding vows out loud. Consider sharing your decision with a close friend or family member. However Jesus is leading you today, say yes. You won't want to miss what He has for you.

CONNECT//10 minutes



Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.

Dream Vacation

Kids will think about what they would bring on a dream vacation and whom they would invite to join them on the trip.

SUPPLIES

- Name tags (2 per child)
- Markers

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What is the best trip you've ever taken?**

Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila traveled to Ephesus together. Bringing a friend along on a trip can make the experience even more fun. Give each child two name tags. On one name tag, have the kids write their name, and on the other name tag, have them write the name of a friend they would choose to bring with them on a vacation. Encourage the kids to put both name tags on their shirts and discuss the following questions:

- If you could travel anywhere for a vacation, where would you go and why?
- Which friend did you choose to go with you on your vacation? Why?
- What kinds of activities would you and your friend do on your vacation?

GATHER//30 minutes



*Children experience and learn more about God through prayer, storytelling from *The Big God Story*, an investigation into God's Word, and creative ways to memorize Scripture.*

Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of *The Big God Story*.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27

Game: Remember Verse Puzzle

SUPPLIES

- Cardboard or poster board (1 [2' x 2'] piece for every 3–4 children)
- Markers
- Scissors

PREPARE AHEAD

Prepare a Remember Verse puzzle for every three to four children by writing the verse on a piece of cardboard or poster board and cutting it into 20 to 25 pieces of various shapes and sizes. To make the puzzle more challenging, cut it into even more pieces.

RELATE

Invite children to assemble the puzzle to learn the Remember Verse. Split your class into groups of three or four and give each group one puzzle. The first group to put together the puzzle and recite the verse wins.

Storytelling

Bible Passage: Acts 18

Storytelling Technique: Interacting with Visuals

Jesus Is Master

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Paul's Journeys blank map (see Resources)
- Paul's Journeys completed map (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Table (at least 6' long)
- Masking or painter's tape
- Electric table fan
- Ping-pong ball
- Disposable straw
- Colored pencils

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a copy of the Paul's Journeys blank map for each child. Print one copy of the Paul's Journeys completed map for yourself. Test the fan to make sure it doesn't blow too forcefully. Read the activity instructions to see how you'll use the fan.

SET UP

Use two long pieces of tape to create a straight path—about 12 inches wide and six feet long—on the table. Place the fan at one end of the path.

RELATE

Invite a volunteer to help with the activity. **Thanks for helping me today!** Give the child a disposable straw and put the ping-pong ball at the end of the path opposite the fan. **I need you to blow through this straw and try to move this ball down the path to the other end of the table—all while keeping the ball inside the path. Ready?** When the child is ready, turn on the fan at the other end of the table so it's blowing gently against the child. **Go!** Have the child try to blow the ping-pong ball down the path a few times.

Okay, now let's try blowing from the other end, by the fan. Guide the child to the other end, just in front of the fan. Ask the kids: **What do you think will happen?** Invite responses. **Good thoughts. Let's see!** To volunteer: **Ready? Go!** Have the child blow the ball down the path with the help of the fan. **That's a lot easier, isn't it?** Thank the child and ask her to return to her seat. **It was much easier for the ball to move down the path when it followed the wind from the fan. Just like the wind led the ball, God is always leading us. God is Master, and He's always at work. He directs us to follow Him wherever He may lead us. Before we move on with today's portion of The Big God Story, let's ask God to lead our time today.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

God led some people in the early church to follow Him with every part of their lives and tell others the good news about Jesus. There was Stephen, a man who wasn't afraid to tell others about Jesus. God also worked through Peter, whom God used to raise Tabitha from the dead. There was also Paul and Barnabas starting new churches and being chased out of many towns. Doing what God wants us to do can sometimes be difficult. But God wants to do important work within us and through us when He calls us to follow His path. Jesus is Master.

Today we're going to follow two people in The Big God Story—a married couple named Priscilla and Aquila. These people followed God because they knew He was their Master and they could trust His Holy Spirit to lead and guide them. Hand a copy of the Paul's Journeys map and two colored pencils to each child. As we talk about the different places mentioned in today's passage of Scripture, you'll use one colored pencil to label those places. You'll use the other colored pencil to draw on the map. I'll tell you when to do both of those things.

To begin, let's find Rome on your map. Have children label "Rome" on their maps. If they need a little help finding this city, you can refer to your completed map. **Priscilla and Aquila lived in Rome, the capital city of the whole world! They were Jewish, and they made tents for a living. Unfortunately, the Roman emperor forced all of the Jews to leave Rome. So, Priscilla and Aquila moved to a town called Corinth.** Have kids label "Corinth" with one color and draw a line connecting Rome and Corinth with the other color.

Here in Corinth, Priscilla and Aquila met the apostle Paul, and they all made tents together. Paul also told

everyone in Corinth about how Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior the Jews had been waiting for. Let's turn to Acts 18:1–5 in our Bibles. Invite a volunteer or two to read these verses.

Paul knew God wanted him to stay in Corinth for a while before going to more cities to tell people about Jesus. Read Acts 18:9–10. So, after a year and a half, Paul followed God's leading and left Corinth and traveled to a town called Ephesus. Priscilla and Aquila decided to move to Ephesus with Paul. They knew that God is Master and decided to follow His leading, even though it might not have been easy to move again.

Now find Ephesus on your maps. Have children label "Ephesus" with one color and draw a line from Corinth to Ephesus with the other color. In Ephesus, God used Priscilla and Aquila to tell others about Jesus. Priscilla and Aquila also helped a man named Apollos understand God's Word better. In the open area to the right of Ephesus, have children draw a picture of Priscilla and Aquila teaching Apollos. Invite a volunteer to read Acts 18:24–26. God used Priscilla and Aquila in The Big God Story. They trusted in God as their Master and willingly followed His leading, wherever it might take them. Just like the ping-pong ball went down the path more easily when it was guided by the wind, God wants us to follow Him in what He's doing. God has given us the Holy Spirit as a guide to help us, and as we follow His leading, He'll give us the strength to do what He calls us to do. Share a story about a time in your life when you followed God's leading.

Discussion Questions

- Why did Priscilla and Aquila have to leave their home in Rome? Acts 18:1–2
- What did Paul do in Corinth? Acts 18:2–4
- How did Paul know it was okay to keep speaking about Jesus in Corinth? Acts 18:9–10
- How did God use Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus? Acts 18:24–26
- How can you follow Jesus this week?

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.

My Spiritual Journey

Kids will be invited to ponder their spiritual journeys and how God has worked in each of their lives.

SUPPLIES

- My Spiritual Journey template (see Resources)
- Pencils or pens

PREPARE AHEAD

Print one copy of the My Spiritual Journey template for each child.

RELATE

Paul and his friends Priscilla and Aquila obeyed God and followed Him, even though it meant moving away from their home and their friends. As they followed God and trusted Jesus with their lives, God helped them tell people about who He is. Read John 15:13–15. What were some of the ways Jesus revealed more about God to His followers? Invite responses. What are some ways we can show others who God is? Encourage responses.

God put Priscilla and Aquila in Apollos's life to tell him more about God. God also blesses us by putting people in our lives to help encourage us and support us as we step out in faith to follow Jesus. Invite children to spend a few moments thinking about the people God has uniquely placed in their lives—people who have influenced their spiritual journeys. What people taught you about God? Who showed you how to pray and how to read your Bible? Give the kids a few minutes to think about those people. Then hand a My Spiritual Journey template to each child and have him fill in the boxes with the names of people who have come alongside him during his spiritual journey.

Many people have encouraged us in our spiritual journeys. Just as we have been encouraged, God desires for us to encourage others to follow Him and trust Jesus as Master. Encourage the children to ask God if He might want them to encourage a specific person or tell a specific person about Jesus. Have the kids write the names of those people on the back of their My Spiritual Journey template as a reminder to pray for those people during the week.

Developmentally Speaking

Most third and fourth graders have the ability to quickly write short reports and personal narratives. It shouldn't take the children too long to think of at least one person for this activity. But if the children don't finish their projects in class, allow them to finish the activity at home.

(Optional) Amoeba Tag

In this activity, students will join together to win the game.

SUPPLIES

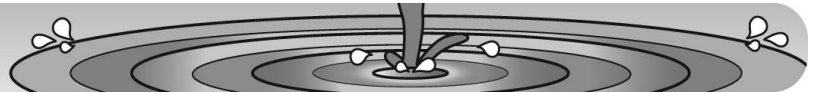
- None

RELATE

God specifically plans to bring certain people into our lives. Sometimes He uses our closest friends to encourage us to follow and trust Him. Priscilla and Aquila chose to follow God and go to Ephesus with their friend Paul. There they helped start a church and helped change the lives of people who lived there.

Invite the children to play a game of Amoeba Tag during which they must join together to win the game. To play, choose one child to be "It." Once It tags someone, she will join hands with that person, and together the two will try to tag others. As the children continue to tag people, they will create an amoeba as the chain begins to grow. Only the two people on either end of the chain can tag other players. The amoeba must work together to move and tag other players. The game ends once everyone has been tagged. If you have time, choose another child to be It and play another round.

BLESS// 5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 8 (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

Gather your children into a circle with you and have everyone stand as you read 2 Corinthians 5:7:

We live by faith, not by sight.

Now model what it looks like for the children to bless one another. Do this by linking arms with the child next to you and saying, **May you live by faith and always follow Jesus.** Then have the child you just blessed link arms with the next child and repeat the blessing. Continue until all of the children have linked arms.

Invite kids to keep their arms linked as you (or another leader) pray a blessing over them from Ephesians 4:1:

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

As you read the last part of this blessing over your class, invite the kids to physically step forward as a way of symbolizing their willingness to take a step of faith into whatever God would have for them. Then end with these words:

May you serve Jesus and obey His leading. May you trust that He will guide you, protect you, deliver you, and care for you.

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.