

Aquila and Priscilla; Apollos

Memory Verse: *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit* (1 Cor. 12:4 NIV).

Background Helps:

The lives of the Christian couple, Aquila and Priscilla, and of the Christian scholar, Apollos, intersect in Acts 18:24-28, so it is fitting that we study these three individuals together this week.

Lesson Helps:

Here are three possible aims and lesson plans:

1. My aim is to teach my students about the service of Aquila and Priscilla, so that they will invest their lives as a couple in service for Christ. Your lesson plan could be organized geographically, tracing the Christian service of this couple from Corinth (Acts 18:1-11), to Ephesus (Acts 18:18-21, 24-28; 1 Cor. 16:19), to Rome (Rom. 16:3-5), and back to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:19). Notice such things as (1) their assistance to Paul, (2) the prominent role of Priscilla (her name is often mentioned first, before her husband's), and (3) their ministry of hospitality. Explore this question with your class: How can married couples today work together in serving the Lord? Application: Encourage couples in your class to discuss later at home this very day how they will apply this lesson in their own service for Christ. While this study is a "natural" for classes of married couples, it is not too early for young people to think ahead about how they will serve the Lord with their future mate.
2. My aim is to teach my students about the service of Apollos, so that they will use their talents in service for Christ. Use Acts 18:24-28 to sketch the character and abilities of Apollos. How did Apollos use these abilities for Christ in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-26) and Corinth (Acts 18:27-28; 1 Cor. 3:5-9)? Ask your students: What abilities has God given to you? How can you use your abilities in service for Christ? Use the memory verse, 1 Corinthians 12:4. This study would be especially timely for college students. Apollos seems to have been a gifted scholar. But notice how he humbly used his learning and eloquence in the service of Christ. Challenge the "budding scholars" in your class to do the same.
3. My aim is to teach my students about the divisions in the church at Corinth, so that they will humbly work for unity in the church. It appears that some of the believers in Corinth were using the name of Apollos (and others) as a rallying point for sectarian divisions in the church. First, give some background on the character and ministry of Apollos in Acts 18:24-28. Then focus on Paul's teaching concerning divisions in the church in 1 Corinthians 1-4. How are Christians today guilty of the same sin? How can we avoid such divisions? What role will you play in maintaining the unity of the body?

Assignment:

-  Read about Lesser Lights (1) (personalities around Paul).
-  Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:5