
Acts 18:1-23

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 18:1-28
- In This Passage: While traveling, Paul meets Priscilla and Aquila. This couple makes tents for a living, just like Paul. He stays with them, and they join him in ministry. They're more behind the scenes than Paul, but God uses those talents to help spread his message, too. God uses our talents.
- Bible Point: God uses our talents.
- Summary Verse: "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior" (Philippians 3:20).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God uses our talents.* Some kids are extremely confident in what they're good at. Others may feel unsure about *what* they're good at. Help them see how God used Priscilla and Aquila's talents of tent-making to help them meet Paul, and he used their quieter personalities to do big things.
- Think About: What are you good at? How have you used those talents to serve God?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to show kids how he's gifted them and how he can use those talents for his kingdom.

Quick Tip

- You can help kids discover how God can use their talents. Talents go beyond skills such as drawing ability or musical gifts. Talents can also include personality traits like being upfront or more behind the scenes. As you observe positive skills or traits in kids, affirm them. Say things like, "Avery, you're such a great artist! You can use your art skills to worship God or draw encouraging pictures for other people." Or you might say, "Brayden, I love the way you eagerly welcome new kids to our class. You're helping them experience Jesus' love!"

This Lesson at a Glance



MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Shine” (watch or download [here](#))
- “God Has Given to Me” (watch or download [here](#))
- “This Little Light of Mine” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Recommended for elementary kids.

Supplies

- “Matt’s Family Band” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers have a talent show-and-tell.

Supplies

- Bible
- snack (optional)
- classroom puppet theater (optional)

Easy Prep

- If you have a classroom puppet theater or any theater props, such as a red sheet for a backdrop, set those up to create a small “stage” area in your room.



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

Only available in One Room class format.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers build a fort, draw on name tags, and have a snack.

Supplies

- Bible
- blankets or sheets
- chairs
- tables
- name tags (2 per child)
- thin markers
- small snack (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- When choosing your snack, try to choose one that could've needed several different people to put together. For example, if you have fruit cups, someone needed to grow each kind of fruit, someone needed to pick it, someone needed to transport it, someone needed to make the packaging, someone needed to package it, and someone needed to sell it.

**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP**

Preschoolers gather in a tent and pray.

Supplies

- tent from the Core Bible Discovery activity
- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))

**OBJECT LESSON**

Preschoolers use mirrors to reflect light.

Supplies

- hand-held mirrors (1 for every 5 kids)
- flashlights (1 for every 5 kids)

**HIGH-ENERGY GAME**

Preschoolers tell friends that Jesus loves them.

Supplies

- inflated balloons in several different primary colors (1 per child)
- music
- music player

**LOW-ENERGY GAME**

Preschoolers play a card game and look for people's talents.

Supplies

- "Talent Search" handout (1 for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the cards from the "Talent Search" handout to create a game like Memory. Each group of 5 kids will need a set of cards.

**CRAFT**

Preschoolers make a craft-stick tent picture.

Supplies

- blue construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- jumbo craft sticks (3 per child)
- "Paul & Friends" handout (1 for every 2 children) (download [here](#))
- colored construction paper
- crayons or markers
- nature stickers
- glue sticks

- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- Cut colored construction paper into approximately 1x1-inch squares. Make enough so there is 1 square for each child.
- Cut the handouts in half.
- Make a sample craft to show preschoolers.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



MUSIC VIDEO

Light of the World

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Shine” (watch or download [here](#))
- “God Has Given to Me” (watch or download [here](#))
- “This Little Light of Mine” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can choose your own worship songs from our Best Of Dig In Music DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Matt's Family Band

[10 min]

Supplies

- "Matt's Family Band" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tips

- Talk-About Videos may work for preschoolers, but they're geared more toward elementary kids. If you find that the videos aren't hitting the mark for your preschoolers, try using the Preschool Puppet Skit activity block instead.
- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or purchase DVDs [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "Matt's Family Band"

Say: Today we're learning that God uses our talents. Talents are things we're good at.

Share about *your* greatest talent.

Ask: • **What's your greatest talent?**

Say: In our video, we'll see how God used one family's amazing musical talents!

Watch "Matt's Family Band."

Ask: • **What was special about Matt's family band to you?**

• **What are some ways they can show God's love?**

• **How can you show God's love with your talents?**

Say: Matt's family band uses their talents to play music that helps other people know and worship God! God can use *your* talents, too!



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers stack their hands in a cheer and say “I love Jesus!”
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” five times as fast as they can.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that God uses our talents. Talents are the things we’re good at, like playing soccer really well or singing beautifully. We’ll read about some people who used their talents to make tents.**

Share

- Share about a fun tent or fort *you* built. Tell where you built it and what you used to build it with. For example, maybe you built a tent with sheets and furniture, or maybe you used boxes to build a fort.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about tents or forts *they’ve* built or been in. Encourage them to share where the forts were built and what they were made of.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Forts and tents can be super fun to build. And when we make them, we use some of the talents, or things we’re good at, to make them. As we read the Bible today, we’ll learn how God uses our talents. God uses the Bible to talk to us. Let’s listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God for using our talents.



DEEPER BIBLE Talent Show-and-Tell

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- snack (optional)
- classroom puppet theater (optional)

Easy Prep

- If you have a classroom puppet theater or any theater props, such as a red sheet for a backdrop, set those up to create a small “stage” area in your room.

Tip

- If you serve snacks during your class time, letting preschoolers enjoy their snack during the talent show may be a fun option this week!

Talk About It

Say: **God has given each of us so many talents! Some of our talents might be the same. We’re all talented at clapping our hands** (lead preschoolers in clapping) **and waving our arms** (lead preschoolers in waving their arms in the air). **You’re all talented at giving awesome, big, happy smiles.** Have preschoolers show you their best smiles. **And you’re all talented at giving loving hugs!** Have preschoolers hug someone sitting next to them.

Say: **But we also each have different talents and things we like to do. Some people are talented at basketball.** Lead preschoolers in pretending to dribble a basketball. **And some people can touch their tongue to their nose.** Lead preschoolers in trying to touch their tongues to their noses. **Let’s have a talent show-and-tell to show each other our different talents and things we like to do!**

Share Talents

Have preschoolers sit around your stage area, like an audience; if you’re serving a snack, distribute it now.

Stand in the stage area, and say: **I’ll start off the talent show! One of my talents is...** Share about one of your talents or something you like to do, and act out that thing. You might pretend to bake cookies, whistle a preschool-friendly song, or do a one-handed push-up.

Then let preschoolers take turns coming up to the stage to share and act out one of their talents. Preschoolers might share that they’re fast runners and run in a circle around the room, that they like to play with dolls and pretend to rock a baby, that they’re good at soccer and pretend to kick a soccer ball, or that they like to take care of a pet at home and pet a classroom stuffed animal.

After the child has shared, lead preschoolers in cheering, and thank the child for sharing his or her talent. Make sure every child has a chance to share a talent. If you have a small class, preschoolers can take a second turn to share another talent with the group. If you have a large class, consider creating more than one stage area so children can share their talents in smaller groups.

Say: You're all talented in so many different ways, and God uses our talents so we can share his love with others. Some talents might seem silly, like wiggling your eyebrows, but God can use that talent to bring joy to others! And talents like playing soccer or dancing give us the chance to show kindness to people on our team or in our class. No matter what talents we have, God can use them in special ways. Listen to this.

Read 1 Peter 4:10.

Say: It's so awesome that God gives each of us different talents and that God uses our talents to help others and share his love!



CORE BIBLE AT HOME
Not available for this age level.

[20 min]

To use this feature, please ask your DIG IN Director to create a **One Room** classroom. For instructions and tips on creating a classroom for at-home lessons, click [here](#).



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Acts: God Sends Aquila and Priscilla to Help Paul (Acts 18:1-28)

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- blankets or sheets
- chairs
- tables
- name tags (2 per child)
- thin markers
- small snack (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- When choosing your snack, try to choose one that could've needed several different people to put together. For example, if you have fruit cups, someone needed to grow each kind of fruit, someone needed to pick it, someone needed to transport it, someone needed to make the packaging, someone needed to package it, and someone needed to sell it.

Tip

- After you finish your Core Bible Discovery lesson, keep your tent in place for use in the Life Application Wrap-Up section.

Build a Fort

Show the Bible. Say: **Today we'll learn from the Bible that God uses our talents. The Bible tells about two people named Aquila (AK-wi-lah) and Priscilla, who were friends with God. God used their talents to help another friend of God named Paul. Aquila and Priscilla were talented at making tents.**

Let's use our talents to work together and build our own tent in this room. Lead the children in working together to use the blankets or sheets, tables, and chairs to build a tent or fort. Allow about seven minutes to build a tent that all the children can gather under. As children work, notice how each child is contributing. Ask adult or teen helpers to also look for ways each child contributes. This can be most easily done if you designate a few specific kids per adult or teen helper. Some examples to look for are children who are leading others, who are cheerful and positive, who lift the blankets or move the chairs, or who have ideas about how to build the tent.

Have the children gather in small groups under the tent with the adult and teen helpers who were designated to look for their talents. In small groups, have adult and teen leaders point out one way each child used a talent to help with the building of a tent.

Say: **We all have special talents and things about us that helped us make our tent. God uses our talents. In the Bible, God used Aquila and Priscilla's talents to make tents so they could make money. They worked with Paul, and God used each of their talents. They used the money they made to travel and tell people about God's great big love. They used their talents to share stories**

about God's love, too.

Enjoy a Snack

Say: **Sometimes we might think our talents aren't things God can use, but God can use any talent of ours to show his love to others.**

Give each child a snack, and allow children to begin to enjoy them. Say: **Think about these snacks. A lot of people with different talents had to work together to get us these snacks.** Share a few of the things you brainstormed ahead of time about the snack you chose. Then invite children to try to think of other talents that might've been needed so the treat could be enjoyed. You can continue to share new ideas to keep the ideas flowing.

Say: **God uses our talents in surprising ways sometimes. But what God wants more than anything is for us to *want* to use our special talents to show his love. Maybe we're talented at soccer and we use that to help someone feel included in a game. Or maybe we give really big hugs and use that talent to cheer up friends or family. Whenever we use our talents, we can use them to show God's love.**

Draw on Name Tags

Say: **Let's think about some ways God uses our talents.**

Share about something *you're* good at. Tell one way God uses that talent. For example, you might share that you're good at teaching children, and God is using that talent to tell the preschoolers about his love. You might also share that you're good at singing, and God uses that talent so you can sing about God.

Ask: • **What's something *you're* good at?** After each child shares his or her talent, suggest a way God could use that talent. For example, if children say they're good at jumping high, you might say jumping can bring us joy, so God can use that talent to bring people joy. You could say that same thing if a child shares that he or she is funny. If an older preschooler shares that he or she can read, you might say God can use that talent to tell others about God. If a child says he's good at being a friend, explain that God loves it when we're good friends to others, and he uses that to help us be closer to one another and to God.

Give each child a name tag and a thin marker, and encourage children to draw the thing they're good at on the name tag. After kids finish drawing, say: **Put on your sticker as a reminder that God uses our talents, and he can use your special talent in a special way.**

God used Aquila and Priscilla's talents, and it helped Paul travel to more places to tell people all over about God's great big love. Aquila and Priscilla got to talk with people about God's love, too, everywhere they went! Let's let God use our talents in our neighborhoods, at church, at the park, and at home. We want people everywhere to know that God loves them!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Fortified in a Fort

[5 min]

Supplies

- tent from the Core Bible Discovery activity
- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))

Gather in the Tent

Say: **Today we learned that God uses our talents. We heard about some tent-builders whose talents God used, and we even used our talents to build our own tent.** Have children gather inside the tent.

Say: **God gives us talents so we can use them to love and care for others. He gives us our mouths to smile at others. He gives us our voices to say kind and loving things to others. He gives us our hands and feet to do things that help others. God uses our talents for him.**

Say an affirmation over each child. If you know special things about each child, mention one for each child. If not, just say to each child: [Child's name], **God uses your talents**.

Pray

Say: **Let's thank God for the talents he gives us.** Lead children in a prayer, thanking God for the talents he's given you and your group. If you know children's talents, mention skills and talents by name. End your prayer by asking God for help with using the talents for him.

If you have extra time, spend some time reading today's Bible story, "You've Got Talent—by Aquila and Priscilla" from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Say: **I'm so happy you were here today to share your talents with our group. This week, remember God uses your talents. Please come back next week to share your talents with our group again.**



OBJECT LESSON

Shine Your Light

[10 min]

Supplies

- hand-held mirrors (1 for every 5 kids)
- flashlights (1 for every 5 kids)

Shine Lights Onto Mirrors

Dim the classroom lights. Say: **God made us all special and gave us things we're good at. Those things are called talents. But God didn't just give us talents to make us look really cool or smart. God uses our talents for something even bigger. We can use our talents to help people know about God's great big love. Let's do something to help us think about that.**

Form small groups of five children, and assign one adult or teen helper to each group. Have each adult or teen helper follow these steps to experiment with light and the mirrors:

- Angle the mirror so it's aimed toward a wall or the ceiling.
- Give the flashlight to a child, and have him or her shine it directly onto the mirror.
- Have kids look around the room to find the light that's reflecting off the mirror.
- Gently move the mirror to shine the light around the room.
- Give each child a turn to shine the light onto the mirror.

Bounce Light Between Mirrors

Say: **The light went from the flashlight to the mirror and then around the room. Let's see if we can make the light shine between two mirrors.**

- Join two groups together, and have the adult or teen helpers help kids bounce the light from one mirror to another mirror and then look for it on the wall or ceiling.
- Allow kids to try holding the mirrors as their friends shine flashlights onto the mirrors. Have adults or teens nearby help kids angle the mirrors so light doesn't shine into kids' eyes.

Talk About It

Say: **We shined our lights on the mirrors, and the mirrors reflected the light around the room. Like that, when Jesus shines his light on us, we can reflect his light onto other people.**

Share about someone you want to share Jesus' love with.

Ask: • **Who can you share Jesus love with?** Encourage children to talk about why they want to share Jesus' love with the people they named.

Say: **We can be like the mirrors; when we know about Jesus' love, we can share Jesus' love with others.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Jesus Loves You!

[10 min]

Supplies

- inflated balloons in several different primary colors (1 per child)
- music
- music player

Tips

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).
- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Bat Balloons in the Air

Say: **In our Bible story, God used Aquila and Priscilla to tell others about Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus, too. Let's play a game where balloons will help us tell friends that Jesus loves them.**

- Play music, and encourage kids to keep the balloons in the air as the music plays.
- Randomly stop the music. When it stops, have kids scramble to catch or pick up a balloon.
- Say: **On the count of three, let's tell our friends holding the blue balloons that Jesus love them. Ready? One...two...three!**
- Play music again, and repeat with different balloon colors.

Talk About It

Say: **Aquila and Priscilla helped Paul tell people about Jesus. Together, they used things they were good at to share Jesus' love. In our game, we worked together, too. We used what we know about colors to share Jesus' love. God uses our talents to share his love with others.**

Play one more time, and when the music stops, call out all the balloon colors and have everyone say "Jesus loves you!"



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Talent Search

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Talent Search” handout (1 for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the cards from the “Talent Search” handout to create a game like Memory. Each group of 5 kids will need a set of cards.

Play a Game Like Memory

Say: **Let’s play a matching memory game! You’ll see cards with pictures of people and cards with pictures of tools they use to show their talents. A talent is something that we like to do and are good at.**

Form groups of five, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group. Have helpers lead kids through the following steps to play the game:

- Spread out the cards faceup, and point out the matches. For example, the firefighter will match with the firetruck.
- Once you review the matches, mix up the cards and turn them over.
- Choose a child to go first, and have him or her turn over two cards, trying to match a person with an item used for his or her talent.
- If kids don’t find a match, have them turn the cards back over before another child takes a turn.
- If a child finds a match, he or she can keep the two matching cards and go again.
- Play until all the cards have been matched.
- Repeat as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **God uses our talents. In our Bible story, Aquila and Priscilla were really good at making tents, and God used their talent to help Paul.**

Invite kids to talk about how God uses the various people on the cards to help us. For example, you might ask, “How does God use a firefighter’s talents to help people?” and then explain that firefighters are very brave and strong, so God uses their talents to save people in dangerous times.

Say: **I’m so glad that God gives us things we’re good at. God uses our talents to help other people, and God is really good at loving and taking care of us!**



CRAFT Craft-Stick Tent

[20 min]

Supplies

- blue construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- jumbo craft sticks (3 per child)
- “Paul & Friends” handout (1 for every 2 children) (download [here](#))
- colored construction paper
- crayons or markers
- nature stickers
- glue sticks
- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- Cut colored construction paper into approximately 1x1-inch squares. Make enough so there is 1 square for each child.
- Cut the handouts in half.
- Make a sample craft to show preschoolers.



Make a Tent Picture

Say: **In our Bible story, we learned that Paul and his friends Priscilla and Aquila were tentmakers. They were good at tent-making—it was their talent! Their talent for making tents helped them earn money so they could travel and tell people about Jesus. Show preschoolers the sample craft. Let’s make this picture to remember our Bible story.**

- Give each preschooler three jumbo craft sticks, and help kids glue the sticks in the shape of a triangle to a sheet of blue construction paper.

- Preschoolers can use crayons or markers to color their craft-stick “tents” and then glue a colored construction paper square inside the craft sticks to be the tent “door.”
- Give preschoolers each a “Paul & Friends” coloring sheet, and let them color the pictures of Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila.
- Preschoolers can cut out the pictures and glue them to their blue construction paper.
- As preschoolers work, have them share about a time they may have slept in a tent or gone camping.
- Have preschoolers finish their craft by adding drawings of a sun, clouds, grass, trees, or flowers and adding stickers.

Talk About It

Say: **God used Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila’s talent at making tents to help them make money. They used the money to travel around and share about God’s Son, Jesus, with lots of people. God uses our talents, too, so we can share about God’s love with others.**