

Acts 18:1-23

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 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

Kids 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

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

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



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

Only available in One Room class format.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids brainstorm how God can use their talents.

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- tape



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make blanket forts and consider how their talents can be used as missionaries.

Supplies

- Bibles
- several blankets or sheets
- chairs and tables
- mailing labels (2 per child)
- markers
- paper
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase markers or regular markers

Easy Prep

- On 1 label per child, write “missionary.” (You can use a printer if you have a lot of kids.) Leave the other labels blank.

**OBJECT LESSON**

Kids make a cup disappear in vegetable oil.

Supplies

- 16-ounce clear plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)
- 9-ounce clear plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)
- vegetable oil (1¾ cup for every 2 kids)
- paper plates
- several liquid measuring cups
- funnel
- wet wipes

**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP**

Kids pray about their mission field.

Supplies

- paper
- marker
- tape

Easy Prep

- Make a sign that says “You are now entering the mission field.”

**HIGH-ENERGY GAME**

Kids move a balloon using a method of their choice.

Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- masking tape or extra-long ropes
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Using the tape or ropes, mark a circle that’s roughly 15 to 20 feet in diameter for each group of 5 kids.

**LOW-ENERGY GAME**

Kids race to complete challenges before a feather falls.

Supplies

- feathers (1 for every 2 or 3 kids) (you can often find bags of feathers in craft sections of discount stores or at craft and hobby stores)
- paper
- pens

**CRAFT**

Kids make mini tents.**Supplies**

- “Talent Tents Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- fabric
- drinking straws (2 per child)
- yarn
- hole punches
- cardboard (food boxes work great) (each child will need a 4x4-inch square)
- scissors
- rulers
- duct tape
- scrap paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**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](#))

Tip

- 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.

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 surprised you about Matt's family band?**

• **How is God using Matt's family band?**

• **How did this video inspire you to use your talents for God?**

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!



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](#).



DEEPER BIBLE

How Can God Use My Talents?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- tape

Have a Talent Show

Say: **We're learning that God uses our talents. I want to see what amazing talents we have here in this room! We're going to have a talent show so you can show off your talents. You'll each get 30 seconds to show your best talent!**

If your talent is singing or dancing, that's easy to perform right now. But what if your talent is playing piano or soccer? No problem! Just act out what your talent is, Charades-style.

If you have more than 10 kids, have kids form audience groups of no more than 10 each, and have multiple performances at the same time. Try to time it so kids don't take more than 30 seconds each.

Say: **Your talents are amazing! We have so many different talents in this room. Name some of the talents you saw acted out. But...what do they have to do with God? How can God use *your* talents to show his love or help people become friends of God? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Have a child read Ephesians 2:10.

Ask: • **How would you say this verse in your own words?**

• **What does that mean about our talents?**

Say: **God made you with just the right talents to do what he wants you to do. Are some talents better than others? Talent shows are really popular on TV right now, and people are always judging which talent is the best. Does God do that? Listen to this passage and see if you think some talents are more important than others, and why or why not.**

Have a child read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

Ask: • **What does this passage say about our talents?**

• **How does it change the way you think to hear that *God* does the work of serving through your talents?**

Say: **God can use any talent because the same God is working through each one of us. Early on in the Bible, God wanted his people to build something called the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was a special place to worship God, but it was a tent that could be easily moved. It was *huge*, and it took all kinds of talents to make it!**

Have kids form four groups. Give each group one of these passages to read:

- Exodus 35:5
- Exodus 35:10
- Exodus 35:25

- Exodus 35:33

Ask: • **What talents did God use in the verse your group read?**

• **Why was that talent important?**

Say: **Sewing or construction don't seem like they're directly related to serving or loving God. But God uses our talents, and he had a special purpose for the people with those talents...and many others! Listen to this.**

Have a child read Exodus 35:29.

Ask: • **How are your talents like a gift to God?**

Get Ideas

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. Have kids write the talent they acted out earlier at the top of a paper, and then tape all the papers to the wall.

Say: **Walk around and look at some of these talents. On each sheet of paper, write a specific way God could use that talent to share his love, his message of hope, or to help someone know him better.** Allow several minutes for kids to walk around the room, reading the different talents and then writing ways God could use the talents.

To get kids started, share these examples:

- sharing about Jesus with kids on your soccer team
- helping a younger kid learn how to play baseball
- tutoring a classmate who's struggling in a subject you're good at
- writing a story for the church library

Keep an eye out for papers that no one is writing on, and add your own ideas. After several minutes, have kids retrieve their papers and read the ideas silently.

Say: **Your talents might not seem very connected to God. Neither was tent-making, but it opened up the chance for Priscilla and Aquila to get to know Paul, which led them to helping Apollos get the message right. Plus, God used their quiet, behind-the-scenes manners because that was what Apollos needed!**

God uses our talents. God wants to use you in specific and unique ways because of the way he made you. Let's close our Deeper Bible time with one last reminder of how God can use your talents...whatever you do.

Read Colossians 3:17, pausing after "do or say." Go around the room and have kids each say the talent they wrote on their papers. Then continue reading the rest of the passage.



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a high-one (high-five with just one finger) to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids do a “happy birthday” wave.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God uses our talents. We all have talents...but I’ve seen some talents that are especially amazing.**

Share

- Tell kids about the coolest talent *you’ve* ever seen. It might be something you’ve seen in person or on a reality show.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about the coolest talent *they’ve* ever seen.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Acts 18, and say: **It’s fun to show off cool talents! But our talents are for more than just showing off. God uses our talents to help other people understand him, to show God’s love, to serve other people, and to help others know who God is. Let’s see how two people in the Bible used their talents for God. The Bible isn’t like other books; it’s God’s special book. The Bible is one way God shows us what he can do through our talents. As we read his Word today, let’s see what he does in us. Let’s pray and ask him to use us.**

Pray, thanking God for using our talents.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

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

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- several blankets or sheets
- chairs and tables
- mailing labels (2 per child)
- markers
- paper
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase markers or regular markers

Easy Prep

- On 1 label per child, write “missionary.” (You can use a printer if you have a lot of kids.) Leave the other labels blank.

Make Tents

Have kids form groups of five. Say: **We’re going to have our Bible Discovery time in tents today. I’ll need your help making the tents! You probably remember making blanket forts when you were younger. As you work with your group to make a blanket fort, pay attention to what other people in your group do well. You might notice they’re very creative about how to arrange things, they’re good at leading the other group members, or they’re good at making it really fun. Or maybe you’ll notice friendship talents, like showing kindness, helping everyone get along, or listening well. God uses our talents, so look for the talents in your friends.**

Let kids get blankets and sheets and rearrange the furniture to make blanket forts.

After every group has made a fort, have kids sit in their tents and tell each person what strengths and talents they observed. Kids can start by telling the person wearing the most blue what talents they observed in that person, and then go clockwise around the circle so everyone is affirmed.

Make Labels

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God uses our talents. You all are clearly very talented tentmakers. That was one of the talents of the two people in our Bible story today, Priscilla and Aquila (AK-wi-lah).**

Read Acts 18:1-3.

Write “Tentmaker” on a mailing label, and stick it on your shirt. Say: **Think of something *you’re* good at, and write it on a label.** Distribute mailing labels and markers, and allow time for kids to label themselves.

Say: **Priscilla and Aquila’s tentmaking skills led them to connect with Paul. Paul was a really important missionary in the Bible. He traveled all over the place, telling people about Jesus. He was used to being up front, talking and preaching to lots of people! That was one of his talents. God uses our talents. He uses our talents when we’re front-and-center people like Paul. But**

he also used Priscilla and Aquila's talents. They ended up traveling with Paul, and they heard a man named Apollos talking about Jesus. Some of you are going to read about Paul, and some of you will read about Priscilla and Aquila's encounter with Apollos. As you read, think of words you'd use to describe your person or couple.

Have half the kids read Acts 18:4-8.

Have the other half of the kids read Acts 18:24-26.

Ask: • For those of you who read about Paul, share three words that describe him.

• For those of you who read about Priscilla and Aquila, share three words that describe them.

Say: If this had happened to Paul, he might've preached to the entire crowd along with Apollos, adding the parts he knew about Jesus. But that's not what Priscilla and Aquila did. They pulled Apollos aside quietly and talked to him one on one.

Ask: • Tell whether you'd prefer to give a speech or just talk to one person. Tell kids your answer first.

Say: Apollos went on to preach to a lot of people about Jesus. And he could do that better because of what Priscilla and Aquila did. God uses our talents whether we're loud or quiet.

List Credits

Say: Think about it this way. At the end of a movie, you see credits rolling for a *long* time. Let's list some of the jobs it takes to make a movie.

Distribute paper, and have kids work in their original groups of five to make lists. Then have groups take turns sharing one job at a time as you record them on a whiteboard or poster board. (If kids need suggestions to get started, see the paragraph below.) Groups don't need to share a job once it's already been added to the list.

Ask: • Which of these jobs would *you* most like to have?

• Which job do you think sounds the most like what Paul's role would be in a movie? How about Priscilla and Aquila?

Say: When we watch a movie, we only see the stars of the movie and maybe some extras in the background. But there are *so many people* involved in making a movie. There are people who make costumes, design sets, hold the microphones, film the movie, write the scripts, choose the music, sing the music, provide food for the actors, edit the footage, advertise the movie, train any animals that might be in the movie, do makeup, and so much more. If you *only* had the stars, the movie wouldn't be possible. In the same way, God uses our talents to do incredible things, and he uses all of us with our different talents.

Get a New Label

Say: Paul had different talents than Priscilla and Aquila, but God used all three of them as missionaries in different ways. That's because God uses our talents.

Earlier you made a label with a talent you have. But God can use *all* our talents to help others become his friends! That's called being a missionary, and being a missionary doesn't mean you have to go to another country or even another state. You can be a missionary at your school, in your neighborhood, or anywhere else you go. When God uses our talents to help other people see him, we're being missionaries!

Give each child a label that says “missionary.” As you distribute the labels, make it personal. Use each child’s name and the talent on his or her other sticker. For example, you might say: **Logan, you’re a missionary when you play soccer.**



OBJECT LESSON

Incognito

[10 min]

Supplies

- 16-ounce clear plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)
- 9-ounce clear plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)
- vegetable oil ($1\frac{3}{4}$ cup for every 2 kids)
- paper plates
- several liquid measuring cups
- funnel
- wet wipes

Tip

- This experiment can be done with most clear objects of different sizes. Glass cylinders, Pyrex bowls, and beakers all work well. No matter what you use, test to make sure the smaller clear object fits inside the larger one and that it can't be seen when vegetable oil is added.

Compare Cups Without Oil

Form pairs, and give each pair a large cup, a small cup, and a paper plate. Set out the rest of the supplies to share.

Say: **As you can see, we have large and small cups. What happens if you put the small cup inside the large cup? Can you still see it? Let's do an experiment that'll seem to cause the small cup to disappear.**

Pour Oil Into the Large Cup

- Have pairs each place their large cup on the paper plate to catch any vegetable oil spills.
- Have pairs each measure and pour $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of vegetable oil into their large cup.

Lower Small Cup Into the Large Cup

- Invite one partner to slowly lower the smaller cup into the large cup and press it down into the vegetable oil.



- Have the other partner look at the cups at eye level. It will be apparent that the small cup sinks into the oil, but it can still be seen a little bit.
- Invite partners to trade places so both can observe the cups at eye level.

Pour Oil Into the Small Cup

Say: **If you look closely, you can still see the outline of the smaller cup.**

Let's see if we can change that.

- Have pairs each measure 1 cup of vegetable oil.
- Have one partner hold the small cup inside the large cup while the other partner starts to pour the oil into the small cup. Once the oil's inside, the partner can let go of the small cup and let the weight of the oil hold it down in the large cup.
- Have pairs observe the cups at eye level. The smaller cup will seem to disappear!



- Invite pairs to each carefully lift the small cup out of the large cup and watch it reappear. Then they can lower it back into the vegetable oil and watch it disappear again.



- When kids have finished observing, have them use the funnel to carefully pour the vegetable oil back into the container, throw away paper plates, and use wet wipes to clean their hands and table area. Keep one set of cups with oil for a final demonstration.

Talk About It

Say: **The small cup seemed to disappear inside the larger cup. It's like it was behind the scenes, but it was still there.**

Ask: • **How were Priscilla and Aquila like the small cup in our experiment?**

Say: **Priscilla and Aquila were present in Paul's life. They worked together, and Priscilla and Aquila did a lot to help the early church. But God used their talents in a behind-the-scenes way. They weren't famous or well-known like Paul, but God gave them important work to do.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you did something behind the scenes. What difference did you make?** Share a story from your own life to begin the conversation.

Say: **God uses our talents.** Hold up the experiment one more time for kids to see. Pull the small cup from the larger cup of oil. **Sometimes we're noticed and applauded.** Lower the small cup back into the oil. **But at other times God uses our talents behind the scenes to help and support others.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Entering the Mission Field

[5 min]

Supplies

- paper
- marker
- tape

Easy Prep

- Make a sign that says “You are now entering the mission field.”

Imagine Different Ages

Say: **We’re learning that God uses our talents. He used Priscilla and Aquila’s talents to help Paul with being a missionary. Did you know that everywhere *you* go, you can be a missionary like the three of them?**

- Hang the sign over your doorway.
- Have kids think about what their mission field is. It might be school, their neighborhood, or a sport they play.
- Kids will pray about their mission field, asking God to prepare them to be missionaries and to use their talents to help other people know Jesus.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you gave us all special talents and personalities. Use our talents as we leave this room. Help us remember to show your love wherever we go this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Balloon Baton

[10 min]

Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- masking tape or extra-long ropes
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Using the tape or ropes, mark a circle that's roughly 15 to 20 feet in diameter for each group of 5 kids.

Tips

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).
- The maximum size for each group of kids should be 5, but if you have a smaller total number of kids the game will work with as few as 3 or even 2 kids. If you have a smaller group, simply have kids move to a place farther along the circle to intercept a pass of the balloon again until they complete the loop.

Run a Fun Variation of a Traditional Relay

Say: In the Bible story today we heard how Paul and his friends Aquila and Priscilla had the goal of telling people about Jesus, but they did it in different ways. God used their different talents to help more people know about Jesus.

In this game you'll all have the same goal, but you'll get to choose the way you work to achieve it—you'll choose the way in which you feel most talented.

- Form groups of 5 or fewer.
- Have each group pick a circle for their relay, and give each group a balloon.
- Each group will move the balloon around the circle by passing it to the next player until they've completed a loop around the circle.
- Kids can choose from three ways to move the balloon:
 - getting on their hands and knees to push the balloon along the path with their noses
 - walking on their knees and pushing the ball along with their knees (sort of like moving a soccer ball with knees instead of feet)
 - without using their hands, picking up and holding the balloon between their knees and waddling along the path
- Allow kids to practice the three motions for a few minutes to choose which one they feel most talented in.

- Have teammates spread out fairly evenly along the path of their circle, with one person holding the balloon.
- Give a signal to start the game, and encourage kids as they make their way around their circles in the motions they chose.
- When they each reach their next teammate, they'll drop the balloon to pass it off.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Play a second round, and challenge teams to complete their loops more quickly.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What made you choose the way you moved the balloon?**

• **Why did it make your team better to all be able to move the way you were best at—even if your ways were different?**

Say: **Being able to use your talents meant that your team reached your goal faster, and it was more fun for everyone! Your different talents made your team better. That's true for us in real life, too. God gave all of us unique talents, and God uses our talents for good purposes. He can use our talents to help others know about Jesus, just like he used Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla!**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Before the Feather Falls

[10 min]

Supplies

- feathers (1 for every 2 or 3 kids) (you can often find bags of feathers in craft sections of discount stores or at craft and hobby stores)
- paper
- pens

Take on Fun, Timed Challenges

Say: **When God makes each person, he gives each of us talents—things we do well or things we do in a special way. We read about Paul and his friends Priscilla and Aquila. They all were talented in helping others learn about Jesus and begin a friendship with Jesus, but they were each talented in different ways.**

Let's play a game where you'll try to do something three times before a dropped feather hits the ground. It'll be tough, but there will be some challenges you're better at than others. Plus, you'll have some fun along the way!

- Form pairs or trios (either is fine—trios may be better for a larger group of kids).
- Give each pair or trio a feather and a pen and paper
- For each challenge, one person will hold the feather up above his or her head so the feather's broad, flat side is parallel to the ground and will float most slowly to the ground.
- When the person holding the feather lets go and it begins to fall to the ground, the person trying to beat the challenge will start doing the challenge motions, such as push-ups or jumping jacks.
- Allow time for everyone to try each challenge before moving on to the next.
- Challenge kids to complete each of these before the feather hits the ground:
 - do three push-ups
 - name three famous people
 - do three jumping jacks
 - take three *big* steps
 - draw three circles
 - name three ocean animals
 - spell three kinds of food
 - count to 10 by even numbers three times
 - name three sports that start with the letter "S"
 - say "Six sick sloths" correctly three times
 - stand up straight and then bend down to touch your toes three times
- For the last round, allow kids to pick one of the challenges to repeat—one they felt they were good at or could complete with a second try.
- Give a signal to start the game.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Which challenges were you the best at?**

• **Which challenges were the hardest?**

• **How did your talents compare with your teammates' talents?**

Say: **In our game, we all had the same goal. But each of you were better at beating the feather in different ways. We all have different talents and abilities, and God uses our talents in unique ways.**



CRAFT Talent Tents

[20 min]

Supplies

- “Talent Tents Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- fabric
- drinking straws (2 per child)
- yarn
- hole punches
- cardboard (food boxes work great) (each child will need a 4x4-inch square)
- scissors
- rulers
- duct tape
- scrap paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Tents

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child two straws. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow the instructions on the “Talent Tents Instructions” handout to make tents.

- Cut a 4x4-inch square out of cardboard.
- Punch a hole in each corner of the cardboard.
- On the cardboard, write or draw things you’re talented at.
- Cut a square of fabric that’s about a half-inch longer than your straws.
- Make an X with your straws, and tie them together in the middle of the X.

- Cut two pieces of yarn a few inches longer than your straws.
- Thread a piece of yarn through each straw.
- Use the yarn that hangs out of the ends of the straws to tie the straws to each corner of the cardboard. As you do, you'll bend the straws into a tent frame.
- Cover the tent frame with your fabric, and cut a slit to make a tent opening. Then duct-tape the fabric to the cardboard to hold it in place.

Add Names

- Have kids each write the name of someone they know (or have adult and teen helpers write it for them) on a small scrap of paper and then crumple the paper and put it in the tent. Have them each make at least 10 paper scraps with different names to put in their tents. Encourage them to include names of family members, friends, classmates, neighbors, and even people they don't like much.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Now that you've made a miniature tent, what skills do you think Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila had to make tents?**

• **Paul was more like the fabric of the tent...the part you see. Priscilla and Aquila were like the support holding him up. Which part of the tent are *you* most like? Why?**

Say: **Whether your talents are center-stage like Paul's or more in a support role like Priscilla and Aquila's, God uses your talents. He made you just the way you are to do amazing things!**

This week, try to pick one name at random from your tent each morning.

Ask God to show you how to use your talents to help that person that day.

Have kids take their tents home and choose names of people to help as a reminder that God uses our talents.