

Residing with Friends in Corinth

Acts 18



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 8 [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; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 17:17; Romans 12:16; John 15:12

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

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.

- ["Will You Be a Friend of Mine?"](#)
- ["Being Kind to Others"](#)
- ["I Love You, You Love Me"](#)

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.]
- [ABCs of Acts 13-26](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 8 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 2) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)



- [Map of Palestine](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Paul's Second Missionary Journey Visual \(http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=334\)](http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=334)
- **Word cards for use with YOUNGER CHILDREN** (example words: Corinth, Aquila, Priscilla, tentmakers, friends, Apollos, etc.)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Good friends help us do what God wants us to do. God is our special Friend.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week we talked about Paul trying to teach others, but the people didn't want to hear the truth about Jesus. Paul had good friends to help him in good times and bad.

Do you have good friends? What are some things you do with your friends? Do your friends help you make good choices? Do you help your friends make good choices? It's very important to have good friends who will help you make good choices and who will help you feel better when you are sad about something. Paul had some good friends who helped him and encouraged him. Let's see who these good friends were.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What are some things you do with your good friends? Do you ever talk to your good friends when you are sad or upset about something? Do they ever help you feel better? Do they help you make good choices? A good friend is someone who will encourage you when you are down and help you make good choices to do the right things. Are you that kind of friend to others? Paul had some good friends with whom he spent some time. We don't know for sure, but they probably encouraged him to keep teaching about Jesus even when he faced so much persecution. Let's see who these good friends were.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Continuing with our ABCs of Acts, Acts 18 goes with "R," which stands for Residing with Friends (in Corinth).
2. Paul left Athens and traveled to Corinth to continue to teach others about Jesus. Corinth was a very wicked city. He probably arrived in Corinth sometime in A.D. 52—almost 20 years after the Church began. He wrote the first letter to the Corinthians four or five years later from Ephesus. He probably wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians during his time in Corinth.



HISTORICAL NOTE: The wealthy city of Corinth was the capital of Achaia (modern-day Greece). The overland route to the city was much shorter, and therefore preferred more by traders, than the dangerous sea voyage around the southern tip of Achaia (Greece). By the time of Paul’s arrival, it had been a Roman colony for about 100 years. Corinth was also a center of worship for the god Apollo, as well as the goddess of love and fertility, Aphrodite. The phrase “act like a Corinthian” meant to be immoral. The worship of Aphrodite contributed greatly to making Corinth a terribly immoral city. There was a large Jewish population with their own places of worship, as well as increasingly popular Egyptian religions. Archaeologists have unearthed many of the important sites of ancient Corinth, including old synagogues, the great marketplace (the Agora), and what is believed to have been “the judgment seat” of Gallio. Gallio was appointed to a two-year term as proconsul of Achaia in July of A.D. 51, but his term ended early because of an illness. He was the brother of the philosopher Seneca; Nero executed both brothers.

3. Paul arrived in Corinth alone and began to work as a tentmaker with his good friends Aquila and Priscilla. (Silas and Timothy joined him later.) Along with other Jews, Aquila and Priscilla had been forced to leave Rome because of an imperial edict from Claudius (probably about A.D. 49); Christians were still considered a sect of the Jewish religion at that time.



HISTORICAL NOTE: In Bible times, people who worked in the same trade (occupation) usually lived in the same areas of a city. The Romans and Greeks looked down on those who worked with their hands (e.g., people like tentmakers). Jews, on the other hand, took pride in knowing trades and teaching trades to their sons—even like Paul. Therefore, like all Jewish boys, Paul was taught a trade. “Tentmaking” referred more to leatherwork than only to making tents.

4. As he always did, Paul taught the Jews in the synagogue every Saturday. He became so disgusted with the Jews’ lack of faith and unwillingness to study the Scriptures that he shook out his clothes as a sign of his disappointment and frustration that they would not listen to the Truth. He then went into the marketplace to teach the Gospel to anyone who would listen. The marketplace was not only a place to sell and buy goods, it was a place to exchange ideas and listen to speakers (much like the Areopagus in Athens). He had been mistreated and threatened so many times that God wanted to let him know that no one would attack him while he was in Corinth. So He spoke to Paul in a dream, telling him to continue to preach without fear (vss. 9-10). God promised to be with him and Paul stayed in Corinth for about a year and a half.
5. Many people in Corinth did believe the gospel message and became Christians, including Crispus and his family. Crispus was the “ruler of the synagogue,” meaning that he was a wealthy man who was responsible for the worship service in the synagogue.



NOTE: Remember that the Jewish leaders who believed in Jesus refused to acknowledge it publicly for fear of being thrown out of the synagogue; Crispus was very courageous to take this step (Romans 16:23, 1 Corinthians 1:14). When Crispus was no longer the ruler of the synagogue, a man named Sosthenes took his place, but soon became a Christian, himself (1 Corinthians 1:1).

6. The Jews who did not like Paul’s teaching wanted one of their leaders, Gallio, to make a judgment against the teaching about Jesus. When the proconsul Gallio would not take action against Paul for allegedly breaking Jewish law, in anger, the Jews took Sosthenes and beat him in front of the proconsul to show their power.



HISTORICAL NOTE: The Roman government still viewed Christianity as merely a “branch” or sect of Judaism and, therefore, a legal religion. If Gallio had been persuaded that Christianity should be made illegal (not just a sect of Judaism), it would have encouraged more widespread persecution of the Christians.

7. After some time, Paul left Corinth to go to Ephesus, and his good friends Aquila and Priscilla went with him. After he left Ephesus, this couple remained to continue working with the Christians there.
8. In good times and bad, Paul had good friends with whom he could work and from whom he could draw comfort. He lived and worked with Aquila and Priscilla and counted on them to teach and strengthen weaker brothers and sisters in Christ. The husband and wife team loved each other and showed it by their actions toward one another. They were loyal and encouraging to one another. They were interested in the spiritual well being of one another. They were not selfish toward one another. (Stress these last three sentences as “Keys to Friendship.”)
9. We want to have the kind of friendships that Paul and Aquila and Priscilla had. The first step to having that kind of friendship is to choose our friends carefully. Spend time with people who are good people every day of the week—not just on Sundays. Spend time with people who don’t criticize you or others, who don’t make fun of you or others, and who don’t pick fights or try to get you into trouble. The best kinds of friends are those who love God and want to go to heaven with you!

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:

- “[Paul in Corinth Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 18 provided in activity sheets)
- “Leap Frog” game: On cutouts of lily pads, write questions about places to which Paul traveled during his second missionary journey (either something that happened in a particular place or on the journey in general). Put them on the floor, question side down. Let the children take turns tossing a beanbag frog (or other beanbag if you can’t find a frog) onto a lily pad. Read the questions to them when the beanbag lands on a lily pad. (“[Lily Pad Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Divide the children into pairs and have them sit facing each other, feet together, holding hands. First they lean toward one, then toward the other. As they rock back and forth, “rowing their boat,” sing with them “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and talk about how doing things with friends is fun.

- Talk with the children about choosing good friends (i.e., what makes a person a “good” friend, how a good friend helps you, etc). Then talk about how each of us should be a “good” friend to others. Print/copy, “I will be a good friend to others” in dot-to-dot formation on a piece of construction paper or card stock. Ask the children to trace the words and color or decorate their paper.
- “Keys to Friendship” key ring: Using four or five “key” cutouts, label the first one “The Keys to Friendship.” Then write something on the remaining keys that the children can do to be good friends (e.g., share, ask a friend to Bible class, help when someone is sad, etc.). Let the children help you come up with ideas. Punch holes at the end of the keys and tie them together with yarn or use a small ring clasp to bind them together. (“[Key Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 18 provided in activity sheets)
- “Leap Frog” game: On cutouts of lily pads, write questions about places to which Paul traveled during his second missionary journey (either something that happened in a particular place or on the journey in general). Put them on the floor, question side down. Let the children take turns tossing a beanbag frog (or other beanbag if you can’t find a frog) onto a lily pad. Read the questions to them when the beanbag lands on a lily pad. (“[Lily Pad Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “[Acts Activity Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
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3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 18 provided in activity sheets)
- Write some or all Scriptures given under “Scripture References” on the board or a Power Point slide about friends or friendship, leaving key words out. On index cards or small pieces of paper, give the children the Scripture references, and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the missing words.
- “[Acts Activity Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 18
 - *Discovery* magazine articles: “Corinth—A City of Corruption,” [February, 2001](#); “You Can Be Forgiven—If You Repent!” [June, 2005](#); “Brotherly Love,” [December, 2009](#)
 - *Paul’s Journeys*, by Loyal Kolbrek, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: remove the sentence starting with “He felt the Spirit...” on p. 6)

SONGS:

“WILL YOU BE A FRIEND OF MINE?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Will you be a friend of mine, friend of mine, friend of mine?

Will you be a friend of mine, and shake my hand today?

Yes, I’ll be a friend of yours, friend of yours, friend of yours.

Yes, I’ll be a friend of yours, and shake your hand today.

“BEING KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

Being kind to others, being kind to others;

Being kind to others, every night and day.

Being kind to others, being kind to others;

Jesus ever taught us that we must obey.

CHORUS:

Oh, we must be kind! Oh, we must be kind!

Jesus ever taught us that we must be kind.

(REPEAT)

“I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME”

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The Barney Song”)

I love you. You love me.

We are in God’s family.

With a great big hug and a smile from me to you,

Showing love in all we do.

I love you. You love me.

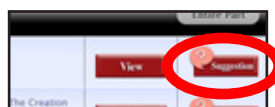
We’re as happy as we can be.

With a great big hug and a smile from me to you,

Praising God in all we do.

*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.



Reasoning with Apollos



Acts 18



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Good friends help us do what God wants us to do. God is our special Friend.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Briefly review Sunday's lesson (See [N.T.8 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point. Stress the importance of having good friends, like Aquila and Priscilla were to Paul.

Acts 18 also tells us that “R” is for Reasoning with Apollos.

In Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla and met a young preacher named Apollos. He was a powerful preacher, but he needed to learn more about the Bible so that he could be a better preacher. He was not afraid to preach, but he did not know all he needed to know. So Aquila and Priscilla spent time with him, helping him learn more. Apollos was willing to listen and after Aquila and Priscilla and taught him more, he became an even better preacher.

Parents, Bible class teachers, preachers, and church leaders all want to help you learn more. They also know that they still have much to learn. We can't think, “I'm so smart that I don't need to study,” or “I already know enough about the Bible.” God wants us to always study His Word so we can learn more about Him every day.

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.

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