

How May I Help?

STICKY STATEMENT

All for one and one for all.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Children will learn about the importance of serving God with their gifts and talents and will be encouraged to always be looking for ways to serve Him.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Aquila and Priscilla were husband-and-wife believers in Jesus Christ and friends of the Apostle Paul. Together, they served the early church in many capacities. By looking at areas where they served, we can examine our own God-given gifts and skills to discover that we too are part of God's team, and we should make it our goal to play our part so others can know Jesus.

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:6a

DEFINITIONS

Hospitality: *"generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests"*

Encourage: *"to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope"*

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

1. A PowerPoint is available for this lesson.
 2. Masking tape (Hook)
 3. The "How May I Help?" cards (Next Steps)
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GENERAL LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Teacher's Note: Before the lesson, print the “How May I Help?” cards. Be sure to have enough of the cards so that each child can take a few of them if they want to. For your convenience, these cards have been formatted to fit the business card template Avery 5371. If you purchase the template, the cards can be printed and simply torn apart after printing. If using the template is not possible, print the cards on cardstock and cut them out. The cards can be found at the end of the lesson.

HOOK

Teacher's Note: The Hook section includes a game that is designed to have every child play. If your group is too large to play this game, either make several groups of at least 10 kids per group or simply have one group of 10 demonstrate for the rest of the children. The Hook section is written as if all the children are playing. Adjust the script as needed.

Using masking tape, make a line on the floor that is long enough for all the children in the game to stand on. The goal of this game is for the children to line up on the masking tape line in order of height. The shortest person should be in the front of the line and the tallest person in the back. However, no one is allowed to talk. They must stay completely silent throughout the game.

The purpose of this game is to demonstrate the necessity of teamwork and to show the value of every member of the team. If the fictional story that accompanies the Hook will not work for your setting, create your own story that is more suitable for your group. You could also simply play the game without the storyline.

[Speak in a whispering voice.] Sh! Sh! All right, it's time to begin — but we have a small problem. We have all been locked inside the lair of the evil villain Dissention. He has been causing trouble for years and he has finally captured us all.

Fortunately for us, he has fallen asleep, and we have a chance to escape. Because of the unique motion sensors in this room, it is going to take some teamwork to get out, and we are going to have to be really quiet. Any little sound will trigger the alarm and wake him, while the lack of teamwork will register on the motion sensors and will trigger the alarm as well.

Dissention's mega computer will scan the room and do a head count every five minutes, but we have discovered that the motion sensors can be tricked if [Enter the number of people in the room.] people will stand together in a straight line. But the sensors on the alarm are sensitive. Any sudden variation in the straight line, side to side or up and down, will trigger the alarm. To avoid those variations, we will need to line up on this masking tape in a straight line by order of height. The shortest person will need to be first in line while the tallest person will need to be in the back of the line. If we will stand this way when the computer scans the room, our teamwork will fool the computer into unlocking the doors.

So, here is your job. Without speaking — because we must not wake Dissention — we need to line up on this line by order of height as quickly as possible with the shortest person in the front and the tallest person in the back. We have less than five minutes before the next scan. Does everyone understand? OK, Sh! [Hold your finger to your mouth as if to quiet the group.] Don't talk but get into a line by order of height so we can escape from the evil Dissention.

Teacher's Note: Allow time for the children to create the line. If someone talks, stop the game and have them start over. Allow them to work as a team to create the line.

At this point, it is **very important** that you, as the teacher, **not** join the line but **quietly encourage** the kids as they line up. Stand back from the line and when someone gets in the right spot, give two thumbs up and silently affirm them. You are going to be the **encourager**. Be sure that all the Personal Training (PT) coaches either participate in the game by getting in line or silently encouraging the kids. It will be **very important** that the kids were encouraged during the game when you teach the Connection portion of the lesson.

If the kids can't accomplish the task in less than five minutes, pause the game and continue with the lesson, expressing how sad you are that they couldn't work as a team. If time allows, let them attempt the game again at the end of the lesson. The script is written as if they accomplished the task, so adjust the script as necessary.

Wow! How many of you thought that was difficult? [Allow for a few responses.] Let's talk about what just happened.

- What did you see during the game? Did anyone seem to take charge even though no one was allowed to speak? [Allow for a few responses.]
- Who was the most important person in the line? [Allow for responses.] No one was more important than any other person, were they? We needed everyone to be in their place or no one was going to escape.
- What was the best thing you could have done to help the team complete the task of lining up correctly? [Allow for a few responses.]

In order to defeat the evil villain Dissention, we had to work as a team. No one in our line could do anyone else's job. We all had to play our part to succeed. Without each person in the proper place, our line was doomed to fail. It had to be **all for one and one for all** or we would have been stuck with Dissention forever. Great job everyone. Thanks for working as a team!

LESSON CONTENT

This week's lesson is the third in a four-part series called *Got Character?* In each of the lessons of this series, we are learning about a different biblical character trait. Our first two lessons dealt with trust and obedience. In this lesson, we will see what God has to say to us about **teamwork** and working together for God!

We are going to learn about **two** people from the early church who worked as a team with all the believers in Jesus Christ in their area. This team of Christians worked toward one goal — that more and more people would know Jesus. In our game, our one goal was to line up by order of height and everyone had to play their part. The **one** goal of the two people we will read about was that **more and more people would know Jesus**, and everyone needed to play their part as well.

Just like different members of a sports team have different roles, different members of God's team have different roles. Not everyone does the same thing, but all Christians should be working toward the same goal. Let's discover who these two people were and how they lived with the "**all for one and one for all**" attitude.

The two people we will learn about in this lesson are Aquila and Priscilla. They were husband and wife. They were mentioned six times in the Bible in four different books of the Bible. Every time they are mentioned, they are mentioned together. They worked **together** well and, as we will see, they worked **with others** well. We'll look at a few of the times Aquila and Priscilla were mentioned in the Bible to determine what their roles were on God's team.

The beginning of their story is recorded for us in Acts 18:1-4. This is the **first time** Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned in the Bible. Let's see what we can learn about them. Listen closely as we read four verses. See how much you can remember about what we read. *[Read Acts 18:1-4.]*

Aquila and Priscilla were living in the city by the name of Corinth. They weren't **from** Corinth, they were actually from Italy, but they had been forced to leave their home. How many of you have had to move away from your home? Anyone? *[Allow the children to raise their hands.]* If you have ever had to move, you probably know how hard it is to find friends in your new town. They knew what that was like too. When you are new in town, sometimes it is hard to find a place to fit in.

Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers. They made and sold tents for a living. When they got to their new town, Corinth, they set up shop. It was here in Corinth that they would meet the Apostle Paul. If you don't know who the Apostle Paul is, he was a preacher of the Gospel and a missionary. He started churches and wrote many of the letters that are now part of the Bible.

The Apostle Paul had something in common with Aquila and Priscilla. He was a tentmaker too. Yes, he traveled around sharing the Gospel of Jesus, but he made his money by making and selling tents. When he arrived in Corinth, Aquila and Priscilla invited Paul to stay at their house and to work in their tentmaking shop.

Since they had something in common, they made a connection. But they had more in common than just tentmaking. They were all believers in Jesus Christ! Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul were all on the same team — God's team!

- The Apostle Paul's role on the team was to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus. He would stand up in the synagogue and preach (Acts 18:4).
- Aquila and Priscilla's role on the team was hospitality (Acts 18:3).

Do you know what hospitality is? Can someone describe what it means to be hospitable? *[Allow for responses, then show the PowerPoint slide of the definition of "hospitality."]* "Hospitality" is the "generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests." Aquila and Priscilla were hospitable to the Apostle Paul. He stayed with them for about 18 months — that is a year and a half! How generous!

They had an "**all for one and one for all**" attitude. Aquila and Priscilla were not the type of people to stand in front of a crowd and speak, but they were the generous **hosts** for the Apostle Paul. He needed a place to stay while he told the people in Corinth about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla were great teammates! Because of their hospitality, they learned from the Apostle Paul themselves, and **many** people in Corinth heard about Jesus! That's teamwork!

A year or so later, Paul left the city of Corinth. When he did, Aquila and Priscilla actually went with him. Back then, they didn't have cars or airplanes so, when they had to go long distances, they went by boat. Aquila, Priscilla, and the Apostle Paul sailed to a city named Ephesus, where Paul again spoke in the synagogue and told people about Jesus.

Sometime later, Aquila and Priscilla went to the synagogue themselves so they could learn. When they went to the synagogue, they heard a man named Apollos speaking. The Bible tells us that Apollos knew the Scriptures, and he was a very good speaker. But what Apollos was teaching was not quite right. He had learned the truth about John the Baptist who came before Jesus to prepare the people for their Messiah, but he did not completely understand the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Aquila and Priscilla knew that Apollos was part of the team that wanted to preach the truth, but he had not learned certain truths about Jesus yet. Let's see how Aquila and Priscilla handled this. *[Read Acts 18:26b.]* Again, they were great teammates! They did not embarrass Apollos by calling him out in front of the others. They took him aside and taught him the things he didn't know about Jesus.

Do you remember what we said the goal of God's team is? *[Allow for a response.]* Right, it is **that more and more people will know about Jesus**. So, in this instance, Aquila and Priscilla showed an "all for one and one for all" attitude by taking on a role of **discipleship**. Discipleship is the process of helping people grow spiritually in their understanding of God and Jesus.

Apollos knew **some** truth from God's Word, but he needed to grow in his understanding of Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla were just the people to help him. They helped Apollos to grow in his understanding of God. What great teammates!

For many of you, your Personal Training (PT) coach is someone who helps you grow in your understanding of God. After hearing a lesson here at Olympians, they will talk through what you heard from the Bible during PT Huddle so you will understand the things of God better. They may not be the main teacher of Olympians or the pastor of our church, but they help you know more about Jesus and grow to be more like Him. Like Aquila and Priscilla, your PT coaches are great teammates too!

With the **Apostle Paul**, Aquila and Priscilla opened their home to give him a place to live while he taught people about Jesus. With **Apollos**, they helped him to understand the truth about Jesus so he could teach others about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla were not the main teachers on the team, but they were great teammates!

The Bible doesn't tell us much more about Aquila and Priscilla, but it does tell us a **little bit** more. Here are two more things we know about them.

- At one point, they had a church that met in their house (1 Corinthians 16:19). This means that they, once again, opened their home so that more and more people could know about Jesus. They were great teammates!
- The Apostle Paul even said that there was a time when Aquila and Priscilla risked their lives for him (Romans 16:3-4). We don't know what they did, but they put themselves in danger to help Paul preach the Gospel so that more and more people could know about Jesus.

Aquila and Priscilla were wonderful examples of an "all for one and one for all" attitude. Here is a review of their thinking.

- "You need a place to stay for a year and a half? Come on in! No problem! We just want more and more people to know Jesus!"
- "Did we hear you teach something that wasn't quite right? Come, let us explain it to you so you will be a better teacher and more people will know Jesus!"
- "Are there too many people in your house for the church to meet there? Send some of them to our house, and we'll just start a church here so more people can know Jesus."
- "So, you are in some type of trouble and if we help you, we could die? We've got your back! We just want more people to know Jesus!"

Aquila and Priscilla demonstrated with their lives that leading others to Jesus was important to them. They didn't have to be the main speakers. They didn't have to be recognized. They just did what they could so that more and more people could know Jesus! That's what good teammates do — they do what they can do to help the team! They lived out the idea of **all for one and one for all**.

CONNECTION

In our game at the beginning of the lesson, we needed everyone to do their part. Each person could only do what they could do. *[Insert the name of one of the PT coaches.]* could not take *[Insert the name of a child.]*'s place or then we would have been out of order.

God's team does not need everyone all doing the same thing. Teams need everyone to do what they can do to help the cause whether it is being the person up front, serving in the background, or serving on the sidelines.

Did anyone notice what I was doing while you all were lining up? *[Allow for a response.]* I was doing my best to **encourage** you when you did things right. Sometimes, our role on the team is to not participate at that time, but we can still be good teammates, can't we? We can do that by being an **encourager**. *[Show the PowerPoint slide of the definition of the word "encourage."]* The word "encourage" means "to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope." An encourager understands the "**all for one and one for all**" nature of a team and helps their teammates do their jobs better! Every team member is important!

We are all different and we all have different abilities (Romans 12:6). Not everyone is holding the microphone or preaching in front of hundreds or thousands of people. Some of us are leaders and teachers. Some of us are good at encouraging one another, being hospitable, showing mercy, and giving of ourselves for the good of others. We all have our gifts, but, as followers of Jesus, we should all have one goal — **that more and more people will know Jesus**.

You do not need to be another Aquila or Priscilla in a literal sense. That is not who you are meant to be. **You** are meant to be **you**, and there is a role for you to fill on God's team. Yes you, at your age, if you are a Christian are part of God's team! You can do something to help others know Jesus.

We learned from Aquila and Priscilla that roles can change over time. The part that you **will play** as an adult is probably not the same part you can play now as a young person. The same is true of the game we played earlier. Think about it; if we were to play our game a year from now, where you stood in line would change for most of you, wouldn't it? But you would still have a role to play in the game.

The "**all for one and one for all**" attitude is an attitude that does not have age limits. It is all about God, and **one** goal — that more and more people will know about Jesus.

So, let's talk more about how this looks specifically for you. How can you be a good teammate on God's team?

Teacher's Note: *If you are using the **Younger Adaptation**, insert it here, then begin teaching again when instructed to do so in a Teacher's Note.*

- Can you **talk**? If so, could you simply be friendly to other kids that come to church? Could you talk to them and include them, making them feel welcome? Can you tell someone that Jesus loves them?
- Can you **sit down**? If so, could you sit with someone in Olympians who needs a friend?

- Can you ***pick things up*** with your hands? If so, could you help clean the room here at Olympians when we finish each week?
- Can you ***sing***? If so, could you sing to the best of your ability during song time?
- Do you ***sing really well***? Could you learn a special song and sing in front of the church?
- Do you ***play an instrument***? If so, could you play a song for church?

What are some other ways you can have an “**all for one and one for all**” attitude, and serve the Lord at your age? *[Allow for responses as time allows.]*

Teacher’s Note: *If you used the **Younger Adaptation**, resume the lesson with the following content.*

You might be the person up front one day, but whatever part you get to do — do it with gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and do it for the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23)! Do what you can do so that more people will know about Jesus.

CHOICE

So, the question is this — will you be a good teammate? Sometimes being a good teammate is simply a matter of opening your eyes to see where God is at work and where there is a need. If you are part of God’s team, be sure that you have an “**all for one and one for all**” attitude.

Let’s take a minute to talk to God in prayer and ask Him to help us to be a good teammate.

*“Dear God, please give me an “**all for one and one for all**” attitude and help me to do what I can do so more and more people can know Jesus. Amen.”*

[Close the group in prayer.]

NEXT STEPS

During Personal Training (PT) Huddle, your PT coach will give you a card that looks like this. *[Show the “How May I Help?” card.]* Asking this question shows that you have an “**all for one and one for all**” attitude. Finding the answer to this question and doing something about it is a great way to be a good teammate. Remember, God’s team is everywhere — not just at church! In your everyday life, wherever you are, pay attention to what is going on around you. Ask, “How May I Help?” then jump in and do what you can do.

If you want to practice being a teammate this week, take at least one of the cards to remind you to ask the question and do what you can do. If you would like, take more than one and use them like business cards. When someone needs help, give a card to them as a way to offer to help.

YOUNGER ADAPTATION: (Connection)

So, everyone, stand to your feet. Here is what we are going to do. I am going to call out an activity, and I want you to carefully act it out. Show us what it looks like. “Carefully” is important, because we do not want you to accidentally hit the person standing close to you. Ready?

Action #1: Holding a Door

What would it look like to hold open a door? *[Allow the children to act out opening a door.]* Good job, everyone! How is opening a door something you can do as a part of God's team? *[Allow for several responses.]* Yes, there are doors everywhere here at the church. When you see someone who needs help with a door, you can open it for that person. But holding doors for others is not just for church — you can hold doors for others in public too.

Action #2: Waving and Saying “Hello”

Alright everyone, show us what it looks like to wave and say “Hello” to someone. *[Allow children to act out waving.]* That was some very enthusiastic waving and some mighty fine “Hellos!” How can waving and saying “Hello” be something you can do as a part of God's team? *[Allow for several responses.]* Yes, waving can be welcoming, and it is also friendly. Remember, hospitality involves the **friendly** treatment of guests or visitors.

Action #3: Picking Up Trash

Act out the process of picking up trash that got left on the ground. *[Allow children to act out picking up trash.]* Sometimes, *[Hold your nose.]*, trash can be stinky or messy. But it does not get less stinky or less messy if it stays wherever it was left. How can picking up trash be something you can do as part of God's team? *[Allow children to give answers.]* Right, have you ever looked around your house, or your school, or even your church, and seen papers, water bottles, or coffee cups that were left behind? You can help God's team by gathering up some of that trash and putting it into a trash can where it belongs.

Last one — carefully and no gymnastics, please!

Action #4: Being a Cheerleader

Act out being a cheerleader! For those who don't like the word “cheerleader,” act out being an encourager or just a good teammate on the sideline! *[Allow children to act out being a cheerleader.]* Good job! How can being a cheerleader (encourager) be something you can do as part of God's team? *[Pause for children to give answers.]* You can be an encouragement to others! Thanking your mom for a nice meal on the table or for taking you to practice is encouraging. Thanking your teacher for helping you with an extra hard problem is encouraging. Thanking someone who works at your church for the part that they play is encouraging.

PERSONAL TRAINING TIME

The Goal of the Personal Training Huddle: The goal of the Personal Training (PT) Huddle is to see if the children understand the concept of being a team player and challenge them to do something this week to help in such a way that more and more people will know Jesus.

Discussion Questions/Guide for Personal Training Coaches:

1. **What are some of the roles on God's team that Aquila and Priscilla filled?** *(Talk about the roles of hospitality, discipling, hosting a church in their house, and encouraging. Talk about how those roles were filled by Aquila and Priscilla in the lesson, and how the students can follow their example.)*

2. **What are your strengths, gifts, or talents?** *(If you know the children in your group well, this is a great opportunity to encourage them with strengths that you have noticed in them. If children have trouble answering this question, help them understand that there is always something they can do as part of God's team, even if they have trouble understanding their role at first. Then, brainstorm with them to help them discover their abilities.)*
3. **What is something specifically that you can do to serve as part of God's team?** *(Talk about your specific church, its needs, and how the children can join the team. Then take the time to help them find ways they can help God's team in their community and at home. Ask the kids how they will use their "How May I Help?" card. Will they just use it as a reminder, or will they take several and use them like business cards? Regardless of how they use them, pray for them to have an "all for one and one for all" attitude this week so that more and more people will know Jesus.)*

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES*

1. Bible Gateway: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
2. Blue Letter Bible: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
3. Mom Junction: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/OBS22/19-1/>

**The websites and sources listed above are not affiliated with or sponsored by Word of Life. They should be used only for reference or resource purposes and may contain content not endorsed by Word of Life.*

PARENT CONNECTION*

This week's lesson was the third in a four-part series called *Got Character?* Our lesson today was about Aquila and Priscilla, spouses who were notable members of the 1st-century church. We looked at the places in Scripture where they are mentioned to determine how they positively impacted the early church through their hospitality, discipleship of newer believers, and helping with planting churches while encouraging others. It would be helpful for you to read Acts 18, Romans 16:3-4, and 1 Corinthians 16:19 to help you understand the content of the lesson.

The children learned that everyone has a role to play on God's team and were encouraged to have an **"all for one and one for all"** attitude this week. We are all different and we all have different abilities (Romans 12:6). Not everyone is holding the microphone or preaching in front of hundreds or thousands of people. Some of us are leaders and teachers. Some of us are good at encouraging one another, being hospitable, showing mercy, and giving of ourselves for the good of others. We all have different abilities, but, as followers of Jesus, we should all have one goal — that more and more people will know Jesus.

Your child was given a small card with the words, "How May I Help?" They were encouraged to become an active participant in the work God is doing in your church by helping the way they can. If you have noticed any special gifts or skills your child has, encourage him/her to use those as part of God's team.

**The content above is just a shortened version of the Parent Connection. The full version of the Parent Connection can be found on TeacherSource. It is designed to be used in the way that is most beneficial to your ministry and is available in both WORD and PDF format.*

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. True or False: Successful teams need each member of the team to play their specific roles. (*True*)
2. For believers in Jesus Christ, what is the goal of the team? (*A. To make the most money; B. That more and more people will know Jesus; C. To win the trophy; D. To score a touchdown*)
3. Aquila and Priscilla were _____. (*A. Brother and sister; B. Husband and wife; C. Father and daughter; D. Friends*)
4. Aquila and Priscilla were _____. (*A. Tentmakers; B. Fishermen; C. Tax collectors; D. Fabric makers*)
5. Aquila and Priscilla showed _____ to Paul by letting him stay with them for 18 months. (*A. Hospitality; B. Rudeness; C. Anger; D. Confusion*)
6. Hospitality is “generous and _____ treatment of visitors and guests.” (*A. Friendly; B. Poor; C. Funny; D. Boring*)
7. True or False: Discipleship is the process of helping people grow in their understanding of God and Jesus. (*True*)
8. What word means “to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope”? (*A. Confident; B. Scared; C. Entertained; D. Encourage*)
9. True or False: You are too young to be a member of God’s Team. (*False*)
10. Fill in the blank: All for one, and one for _____. (*A. None; B. Two; C. One; D. All*)



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