

Bible Point ▶

We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.

Bible Verse

“The believers met together...and shared everything they had” (Acts 2:44).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- pretend to sail to Bible-land cities to tell people about Jesus,
 - hear how Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila told others about Jesus,
 - practice talking about Jesus, and
 - consider how to share Jesus’ love with children around the world.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Priscilla and Aquila help teach about Jesus.



**Acts
18:1-28**

Paul’s companions, Priscilla and Aquila, were displaced from the city of Rome when Claudius Caesar banned all Jews from the city. Through forced moves such as these, the gospel was heard and received in many places.

Priscilla and Aquila had an immediate connection with Paul, as they were all tent makers by trade. Tent makers manufactured, sold, and repaired tent materials and related goods. The income from this trade allowed Paul and his friends to meet their basic material needs while keeping the ministry of sharing the gospel a priority. It was crucial for Paul to support himself, as traveling philosophers had developed a bad reputation as being in the business for the money. Paul did not want to be associated with them or risk having the gospel being tarnished in people’s eyes by his accepting money.

Priscilla and Aquila learned under Paul’s guidance and joined him on his journey to Syria. They had learned enough under Paul to approach Apollos and teach him what they knew about God. Apollos, in turn, spread the gospel further as he traveled.

Prayer

- Read Acts 8:1-4
- How have personal hardships opened doors of opportunity to share God’s love?
- Pray: Lord, help me to be more deliberate in sharing my relationship with you by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Easter Lily Name Tags” (p. 10), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Tent Making —Set up a “tent city.”	Old blankets or bedsheets	
	Option 2: Jesus Banner —Make a colorful banner with a message of Jesus’ love.	Poster board, crayons, collage items, glue sticks	
	Option 3: Paper Tents —Make miniature paper tents.	Stiff paper, markers, stickers	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Pretend to travel by boat to tell people about Jesus.	Paper, marker, tape, long rope	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear how Priscilla and Aquila traveled with Paul to tell others about Jesus.	Bible, sleeping bag or blanket, scissors, plastic bag	
	Do the Bible Story —Decorate pictures of children from various countries, and express messages about Jesus.	“Children of the World” handout (p. 186), colorful fabric and paper scraps, glue sticks, scissors, crayons	
Closing 	A Tent for Telling —Teach Whiskers that he can tell others about Jesus anytime or anyplace.	Blanket, chair, snacks, baby wipes	
	Believers Share —Sing a Bible verse song.	Bible, CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Easter Lily Name Tags” (p. 10), scissors, markers, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson. Use questions such as “What are some ways you took care of your family this week?” or “Did you invite a friend over this week? What did you do?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► we are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.**
- Hand out the Easter lily name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



◀ BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What things do you like to talk about with your friends?” or “When you know something exciting, do you like to keep it a secret or do you tell others about it?”

■ Option 1: Tent Making

SUPPLIES: old blankets or bedsheets

Bring in old blankets or bedsheets to make tents in your classroom. Help children drape the blankets over tables and chairs to create a “tent city.” As the children help you set up the tents, ask them to tell you about times they’ve been camping. Explain that in Bible times, many people lived in tents. Tell them that today’s Bible story is about some people whose job was tent making.

■ Option 2: Jesus Banner

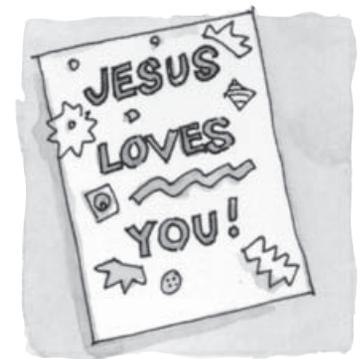
SUPPLIES: poster board, crayons, collage items, glue sticks

On a large sheet of poster board or newsprint, write in large block letters “Jesus Loves You.” Set out crayons, glue sticks, and a tray of collage items such as scraps of fabric, stickers, torn construction paper, and glitter. Let children color the poster and glue on the textured items. As children work, explain that today they’ll be learning about some people who told others about Jesus. Tell children that people sometimes use a poster to share a message.



X-TRA IMPACT

If you have access to a tent, consider setting it up in your classroom. Children can even help you set it up.





If children finish their tents early, ask if they'd like to make "sleeping bags." From colored construction paper or fabric scraps, help children cut out sleeping bags to fit into their tents. Then show them how to glue cotton balls on the top of the sleeping bags as pillows. Children can put their sleeping bags inside their tents.

■ Option 3: Paper Tents

SUPPLIES: stiff paper, markers, stickers

Give each child a sheet of stiff paper such as card stock, poster board, or a large index card. You can also use file folders with the tabs removed. Provide several sizes of paper and let the children choose what size tent they'd like to make.

Show children how to fold their papers in half and stand them up like tents. Set out markers and stickers or other art supplies, and let children decorate their tents. As children work, tell them that today's Bible story is about three people who made tents together and told people about Jesus. Remind children that ► we are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: paper, marker, tape, long rope

Before class, lay a long rope or string in a boat shape on the floor. (Don't tape down the rope.) Make sure it's large enough for all the children to step inside and move around without crowding. Choose three areas of your classroom to represent Corinth, Antioch, and Ephesus. Label each area with a sign. Even though children won't be able to read them, the signs will help you direct children toward each area of the room.

Tell the children you'll turn the lights off and on to get their attention. Explain that when you flash the lights, the children are to stop what they're doing and be quiet. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Made a tent with blankets; made paper tents; made a poster about Jesus.)

Say: **If you made a tent with blankets, touch your hands over your head.**
 Pause. **If you made a paper tent, stand up and then sit down.** Pause. **If you worked on our “Jesus Loves You” poster, say, “Jesus loves you.”** Pause. **Now let’s all say, “Jesus loves you.”** Pause. **Our Bible story is about some people in the church who loved Jesus so much, they traveled all around telling others about him. Let’s climb into this pretend boat and get ready to travel with them.**

Have children step inside the roped area, inviting them onto your “boat.” Have everyone sit down.

Say: **When we love something, we want to tell others about it.**

Ask: **• If you get a new toy, what’s the first thing you do when your friend comes over?** (Show it to my friend; play with it; tell about it; share it.)

Say: **When you have a toy that you love to play with, you want to show it to your friends or tell them all about it. It’s that way with Jesus, too. When we love Jesus and have a friendship with him, we want to tell our friends all about him.**

Ask: **• What are some things you can say to tell someone about Jesus?**
 (Jesus loves you; we love Jesus; Jesus is alive; Jesus is my friend.)

Say: **► We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus. We’re going to take a journey on our boat to tell others about Jesus.**

Ask: **• What are some things we should say to people when we get there?**
 (Jesus loves you; we love Jesus; Jesus is alive; Jesus is my friend.)

Help children prepare one or two things to say when they get to the imaginary cities. Then have everyone pick up the rope with an outside hand and hold it waist high. As you walk, stand in the front of the “boat” and act as “captain” to help direct children’s movements. Lead children to “Corinth” first. Stop at Corinth, and have children say something about Jesus such as “Jesus loves you.” Then travel to the other places you labeled, and do the same.

Finally, travel back to your story area. When you get there, have children sit down and lead them in repeating the Bible Point: **► We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.**



At each stop, have children say (or shout out) the name of the city after you. It will help familiarize them with biblical names.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I’m so glad for the Bible,
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
 I’m so glad for God’s book today.
 I’m so glad for the Bible,
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—
 Keep me learnin’ all about his way.**

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *church stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *church stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, sleeping bag or blanket, scissors, plastic bag



Before class, take out Poster 4 of the "We Are the Church" poster pack and cut along the dotted lines on the back to make puzzle pieces. Place the pieces in a plastic bag to use later in the activity.

Have children gather around you. If you brought or made a tent and it's large enough, have everyone sit inside the tent for the Bible story. If your tent is too small for everyone to sit in, spread out a sleeping bag or blanket for children to sit on while you tell the story.

Open the Bible to **Acts 18** and show it to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. It's about three people who loved Jesus a whole lot! Their names were Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila. You'll need to listen**

very carefully as I tell you about Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila. Boys, when you hear me say the name “Aquila,” repeat it after me. Let’s try that. Aquila. Pause. Girls, when you hear me say the name “Priscilla,” repeat it after me. Let’s try that. Priscilla. Pause. Is everyone ready?

Paul traveled to a city called Corinth. While he was there, he met a man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla. Priscilla and Aquila loved God very much. They became Paul’s good friends. Priscilla and Aquila asked Paul to stay with them for a while. All three of them earned their living by making tents. When you make tents, you have to sew them together. Will you pretend to sew a tent with me?

Show children how to make sewing motions. If you’re sitting on or under a blanket, children can pretend to sew the blanket.

Say: Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila made tents all week long. They sold their tents to make money for food and clothes. But they also had another job. Their second job was telling people about Jesus. They loved this job most of all. Every Saturday, Paul went to talk to people about Jesus.

Now some of the people didn’t like what Paul was telling them about Jesus. They made trouble for Paul. So Paul decided to go someplace else. Let’s stand up and go with Paul to another part of town.

Have children stand up, walk in place for a few moments, and then sit down. Say: Wherever he traveled, Paul found lots of people who wanted to hear about Jesus. They believed in Jesus and joined the church. Paul started new churches wherever he went.

One night Paul had a dream. In Paul’s dream, God told him not to be afraid. God said, “Keep on telling people about me. Don’t give up. I’ll be with you and I won’t let anyone hurt you.” This made Paul feel brave. So he kept on telling people about Jesus.

Then one day Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila got on a boat, just like we did when we pretended to sail around our room. They sailed away to a place called Ephesus so they could tell people there about Jesus. Let’s say that name together. Ephesus. Pause.

Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus while he went on to other cities. Priscilla and Aquila met a new friend in Ephesus. His name was Apollos, and he was busy telling people about Jesus, too! Priscilla and Aquila were so surprised to hear him teaching about God. They helped him learn some new things about Jesus that he didn’t know before. That made Apollos happy! They all kept on teaching other people about Jesus.

Bring out puzzles from the three previous weeks. If you had to take those sections of the puzzle apart, be sure to assemble them before class. From today’s pieces, remove and set aside the pieces that show Jesus. Lay the remaining pieces in a pile next to the other three puzzles.

Say: Our Bible puzzles show us pictures of our story about Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila. Let’s make one last puzzle today. Keep the pieces of Jesus separate, and hand out the other puzzle pieces. Have the children put them in place.

As you help children work on the puzzle, say: We can tell people about Jesus just like Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos did. ► *We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.*



Lead children in singing and doing the motions to “We Are the Church” (track 19) on the CD. The lyrics for the first four verses are on page 172 in Lesson 12. Add verse five:

We tell others about Jesus. (*Cup hands around mouth, point index finger up.*)

We tell others about Jesus. (*Cup hands around mouth, point index finger up.*)

We tell others about Jesus. (*Cup hands around mouth, point index finger up.*)

We are the church! (*Point to individuals in the class.*)





It would be hard for one person to tell everyone in our city or country about Jesus. But if we each tell a few people, and those people tell other people, and those people tell other people—pretty soon everyone will know about Jesus and how much he loves us. It's great to be able to tell people about our friendship with Jesus. Who can you tell about Jesus this week? Let's each think of someone.

Invite children to share people they can talk to about Jesus. Then lead children in praying for these people.



BIBLE POINT

Say: ► ***We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus. We belong to a church because we love Jesus.*** Hand out the puzzle pieces of Jesus and complete the puzzle. Applaud the children, and tell them they did a good job putting the puzzles together. Review past lessons by having children tell you what's happening in the other puzzles.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: “Children of the World” handout (p. 186), colorful fabric and paper scraps, glue sticks, scissors, crayons



Before class, photocopy the “Children of the World” handout, and cut out one picture for each child in your class. Place the fabric and paper scraps, glue sticks, and crayons where children can reach them.

Show children the *tissue ball*, and ask: **What does this look like?** (A ball; a party decoration; a toy.)

Say: **We're going to pretend that this ball is the world. Paul went to many places around the world to tell people about Jesus. Let's think about the different kinds of people Paul may have traveled to see.**

Hold up one of the pictures from the “Children of the World” page. Ask children to look at the picture to guess what kinds of things this child likes to do. For example, when you hold up the picture of the Eskimo child, children may suggest that this child would like to play in the snow, fish, or play games. After you've held up an example of each child pictured, distribute one picture to each child. Let children use the art supplies to add to the clothing on their pictures.

When children have finished, say: **Let's play a game to help us think of ways we can tell others about Jesus. We are going to take turns placing the people we've made into the folds on our globe. As you place your person into the globe, say something we can tell others about Jesus.**

Begin the game by putting a figure into the *tissue ball* “world” and saying, “Jesus loves you,” or another similar message. Let each child take a turn. Then return the paper figures to each child. Let children pretend they're traveling around the world to share their messages. Say: ► ***We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus. Take home the picture of the child you decorated, and when you show it to a friend or someone in your family, tell that person about Jesus, too!***



Invite a missionary to share about the people in the land where he or she lives. Or contact a missionary your church supports to gather information about the people of his or her country, and then share that information with the children.



BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ *A Tent for Telling*

SUPPLIES: blanket, chair, snacks, baby wipes

Bring out Whiskers, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: *(Tries to pull a blanket over a chair, but it won't stay.)* Oh, I can't do it!

Teacher: What's wrong, Whiskers?

Whiskers: I'm trying to make a tent, but the blanket keeps slipping.

Teacher: Making a tent is a fun idea. Are you going to sleep in it tonight?

Whiskers: Oh, no! I saw you and the children making your tents, and I listened to your Bible story. I'm making the tent so I can tell people about Jesus.

Teacher: You're making the tent so you can tell people about Jesus?

Whiskers: Yes. Remember, Paul and Pris...Pris...and Quil...

Teacher: Priscilla and Aquila?

Whiskers: Yeah, those guys! They made tents and they told people about Jesus because they loved him so much. I love Jesus, too. I just gotta make this tent. *(Pulls at the blanket.)*

Teacher: Children, Whiskers thinks he has to have a tent to tell people about Jesus. What do you think about that? *(Let children respond.)* Let's explain to Whiskers that he can tell people about Jesus anywhere and any time.

(Help children explain to Whiskers that he doesn't need a tent to tell people about Jesus. He can tell people about Jesus anywhere, at any time.)

Whiskers: I didn't know that! Thanks for explaining it to me.

Teacher: Do you feel better now, Whiskers?

Whiskers: Do I ever! Especially since I can't get this tent to stay up!

Teacher: We can help you with that, Whiskers. Boys and girls, let's help Whiskers with his tent. Maybe we can tell him more about how Paul and Priscilla and Aquila told people about Jesus. Remember, ► *we are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.*

(Have children pull the blanket over the chair so that it stays in place. Encourage them to tell Whiskers other things they remember from today's Bible story.)

- **Whiskers:** Thanks, everybody! I'll be sure to remember to tell people about Jesus. I also remember our story about Lydia last week, and how she was so nice to Paul and his friends. I thought about it all week, and now I know what I can do to show you I care! I'll be right back. (*Whiskers goes away and comes back with a snack.*)
- **Teacher:** Whiskers, you've brought a snack to share. Thank you! Will you stay and eat it with us?
- **Whiskers:** Sorry, I can't. I'm going to go talk to Joey about Jesus. I'll see you next week though. Enjoy the snack!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Preschool granted for local church use.
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ Believers Share

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ▶



After children have finished their snacks, open your Bible to **Acts 2:44** and say: **The Bible says, ▶“The believers met together... and shared everything they had.” We know it's important to share that Jesus is our friend! Let's sing a song that helps us remember this verse.** Lead children in singing “Believers Share” (Acts 2:44) (track 5) to the tune of “Do Your Ears Hang Low?” with the *CD*.

teacher tips

Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink before they eat their snacks.



**The believers met together
And shared everything they had.
They loved to be together
As it made them feel so glad.
The believers met together
And shared everything they had.
They shared what they had.**

(Repeat.)

BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶***We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.*** Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us tell people about Jesus this week. Dear God, we're glad Jesus loves us. Please help us tell our friends and family members about Jesus this week. In Jesus' name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Musical Messages**



Have children sit in a circle. Play “We Are the Church” from the *CD* (track 19). As the music plays, have children pass around a beanbag, stuffed animal, or other small toy. After a few seconds, pause the music. When the music stops, have the child who’s holding the beanbag stand. Have everyone point to the child and say, “Jesus loves you!” Have the child sit down. Repeat the game until you’ve affirmed each child.

■ **Make to Take: Priscilla and Aquila Puppets**



Before class, draw simple faces on paper lunch bags as shown. Set out the paper lunch bags, crayon, yarn, and glue sticks. Let each child choose to make a Priscilla puppet, an Aquila puppet, or both if time allows. Help them glue yarn hair on their puppets, and then let them color them. As they work, review how Priscilla and Aquila helped Paul tell others about Jesus. Encourage them to use their puppets to tell a friend about Jesus this week.

■ **Treat to Eat: Tasty Tents**



Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Give each child three graham cracker squares and a spoonful of frosting on a wax paper square. Hand out plastic knives. Help each child spread frosting on one of the graham crackers, stand the other two crackers in the frosting, and lean them together to form a tent. As children enjoy the snack, review how Priscilla and Aquila helped Paul tell people about Jesus. Remind children that ► we are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.



■ **Story Picture: Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila Tell About Jesus**

Give each child a 5-inch strip of white paper, such as adding machine paper. Have children draw with pencils on their papers. Show each child how to roll the paper around a pencil, hold it there for a few moments, and then slide the pencil out. This will curl the paper into a “scroll.”

Explain that people in Jesus’ day read from scrolls as people today read from books. Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila may have read the Old Testament from scrolls. Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson). Have them use glue sticks to glue their scrolls onto their handouts. Help them apply glue to the center of their scrolls so they’ll still be able to curl and uncurl them.

Children of the World



Today I learned... We are the church, and we tell others about Jesus.

Lesson 13
Today your child learned that **WE ARE THE CHURCH, AND WE TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Children heard how Priscilla and Aquila taught people about Jesus. They practiced sharing messages about Jesus.

Help me learn this:

"The believers met together...and shared everything they had" (Acts 2:44).

Ask me:

- What jobs did Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila have?
- What could you tell people about Jesus?
- What could our family do together to tell someone about Jesus?

Family Fun

- Agree as a family that for one week you'll each tell one person about Jesus each day. At dinner each night, have everyone tell about the person they talked to. Pray for those people together.
- Sing this song to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."
 - We tell others about Jesus.**
 - We tell others about Jesus.**
 - We tell others about Jesus.**
 - We are the church!**

Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila Tell About Jesus (Acts 18:1-28)

