



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 36



the Third Journey Begins

Acts 18:23-28

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
James 3:1-11
Proverbs 25:11-12
Ephesians 4:15, 29-31
Galatians 6:1-10
2 Timothy 3:16

Memory Verse

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver. Listening to good advice is worth much more than jewelry made of gold. Proverbs 25:11-12 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

- Understand that it is sometimes necessary to correct fellow believers
- Understand that the truth should be spoken in love
- Understand that we should be willing to accept advice as well as give it

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Are you one of those people who works better on a team or by yourself? Have you realized that, in the race of faith we are running, it is an individual thing in that we are responsible for our own actions and choices, but it is very much a “team sport” because of the need to interact with others who are running the same race. How well do you encourage those who are running with you? What kind of example are you? Let’s look at our lesson and see what we can learn.

After Paul ended his second missionary journey, he returned to Antioch where it had all started. Remember, it was from Antioch that Paul and Barnabas were sent out. And it was to Antioch that Paul returned after each trip. “Paul spent some time in Antioch. Then he left and traveled all over [the regions of] Galatia and Phrygia,” in what is now modern day Turkey. (Acts 18:23 NlrV) Paul did this to encourage and strengthen the believers in each of the places he went.

While Paul was traveling, his friends Aquila and Priscilla met a man named Apollos. Aquila and Priscilla were in Ephesus. They traveled there with Paul at the end of his second journey. Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus as Paul traveled on to Antioch. Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos when he came to Ephesus. He was originally from Alexandria, Egypt which is just across the Mediterranean Sea, but Apollos was Jewish. “He knew the Scriptures very well. Apollos had been taught the way of the Lord. He spoke with great power. He taught the truth about Jesus.” (Acts 18:24b-25 NlrV) Apollos knew a lot. He knew the Old Testament Scriptures, as any young Jewish man would. He had even been taught about Jesus, the Christ, “but he only knew about John’s baptism.” (Acts 18:25b NlrV) It seems that, with all that Apollos knew, he didn’t yet understand that Jesus is the way to God, the way to salvation. There is no other way.

But what Apollos knew, he shared and he shared it boldly. One day

Application

Have you ever been corrected for doing the wrong thing? It is never very easy to be corrected, is it? But it is a bit easier to take when the person correcting you is kind.

How are you at correcting others? Are you kind? Do you tear people down with your words or do your words help build them up?

Second Timothy 3:16 says that Scripture corrects us. It makes us aware of the sin in our lives. Are you aware of the sin in your life? Have you come to Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the One who paid the price for that sin and carried it in His own body on the cross? He is waiting . . .

And if you already know Him, are you listening to, reading, and studying God's word? It cannot correct what is wrong in our lives if we don't make it a priority.

when Apollos was speaking in the synagogue, Priscilla and Aquila were there. They heard him speak and they realized that he lacked understanding in what God had done through His Son, Jesus Christ. Aquila and Priscilla didn't embarrass Apollos publicly and they were not rude in any way, but they cared enough about him and the preaching of the name of Christ that they knew they must say something. So they spoke to him privately and "they invited him to their home. There they gave him a better understanding of the way of God." (Acts 18:26 NIRV)

Then, Apollos took what he had learned and decided to travel. He wanted to travel across the Aegean Sea to the region of Achaia, in southern Greece. The believers in Ephesus thought this was a good idea. They helped Apollos by writing letters to the believers in southern Greece asking them to welcome him with open arms. "The welcome paid off: Apollos turned out to be a great help to those who had become believers through God's immense generosity. He was particularly effective in public debate with the Jews as he brought out proof after convincing proof from the Scriptures that Jesus was in fact God's Messiah." (Acts 18:28 MSG)

Review

1. Where did Paul go on his third journey? (The regions of Galatia and Phrygia)
2. Who did Aquila and Priscilla meet in Ephesus? (Apollos)
3. What was Apollos teaching? (He taught the truth about Jesus, but he only knew about John's baptism.)
4. What happened? (Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos. They corrected him privately and then Apollos traveled to tell others about Jesus.)

Next Week
Ephesus
Acts 19:1-20:1

Preschool Lesson

After Paul ended his second missionary journey, he returned to Antioch where it had all started. Remember, it was from Antioch that Paul and Barnabas were sent out. And it was to Antioch that Paul returned after each trip. “Paul spent some time in Antioch. Then he left and traveled all over [the regions of] Galatia and Phrygia,” in what is now modern day Turkey. (Acts 18:23 NIV) Paul did this to encourage and strengthen the believers in each of the places he went.

While Paul was traveling, his friends Aquila and Priscilla met a man named Apollos. Aquila and Priscilla were in Ephesus. They traveled there with Paul at the end of his second journey. Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus while Paul traveled on to Antioch. Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos when he came to the city of Ephesus. Apollos knew what the Bible said. He knew a lot. He knew the Old Testament Scriptures, as any young Jewish man would. He had even been taught about Jesus, the Christ, “but he only knew about John’s baptism.” (Acts 18:25b NIV) It seems that, with all that Apollos knew, he didn’t yet understand that Jesus is the way to God, the way to salvation. There is no other way.

But what Apollos knew, he shared and he shared it without fear. One day when Apollos was speaking in the synagogue, Priscilla and Aquila were there. They heard him speak and they realized that he didn’t understand what God had done through His Son, Jesus Christ. Aquila and Priscilla didn’t embarrass Apollos in public and they were not rude in any way, Aquila and Priscilla cared enough about Apollos and the preaching of the name of Jesus that they knew they must say something. They talked to Apollos in private and “they invited him to their home. There they gave him a better understanding of the way of God.” (Acts 18:26 NIV)

Then, Apollos took what he had learned and decided to travel. He wanted to travel across the Aegean Sea to the region of Achaia, in southern Greece. The believers in Ephesus thought this was a good idea. They helped Apollos by writing letters to the believers in southern Greece asking them to welcome him with open arms. “The welcome paid off: Apollos turned out to be a great help to those who had become believers through God’s immense generosity. He was particularly effective in public debate with the Jews as he brought out proof after convincing proof from the Scriptures that Jesus was in fact God’s Messiah.” (Acts 18:28 MSG)

How do you react when your mom, dad, or a teacher correct you? Let’s follow Apollos’ example and be glad the leaders around us love us enough to teach us what is right.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Make pasta necklaces. Hang a cardstock circle from the middle of the necklace. Spray paint them silver and gold. Write the memory verse on the circle. Practice the memory verse as your students work on their necklaces. Talk about how the memory verse speaks of saying the right thing as well as receiving correction.

Look up the memory verse in several different translations. The King James version even talks about “apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Make an “apples of gold” picture. Use gold markers or crayons. If available, use gold leaf. Make “silver” picture frames from cardstock. Paint the “frames” silver or wrap them in aluminum foil. Be sure to include the memory verse and the reference. Frame the “apples of gold” in silver picture frames.

Continue to mark your wall map. Begin Paul’s Third Missionary Journey in a different color than the first two.

Discuss the importance of knowing God’s Word . . . all of it. Talk about how Apollos could bring “out proof after convincing proof from the Scriptures that Jesus was in fact God’s Messiah.” (Acts 18:28 MSG) Make a list of “proofs” from Scripture that show us that Jesus is the One God promised so long ago.

Read the supplemental Scripture together. Discuss our responsibility. (Do good, kind words, the right word, the right time . . .)

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, talk about the teamwork and encouragement we should be offering to those around us. Discuss the “cloud of witnesses.” Look back at Hebrews 11 if necessary.



The right word at the right time
is like precious gold set in silver.

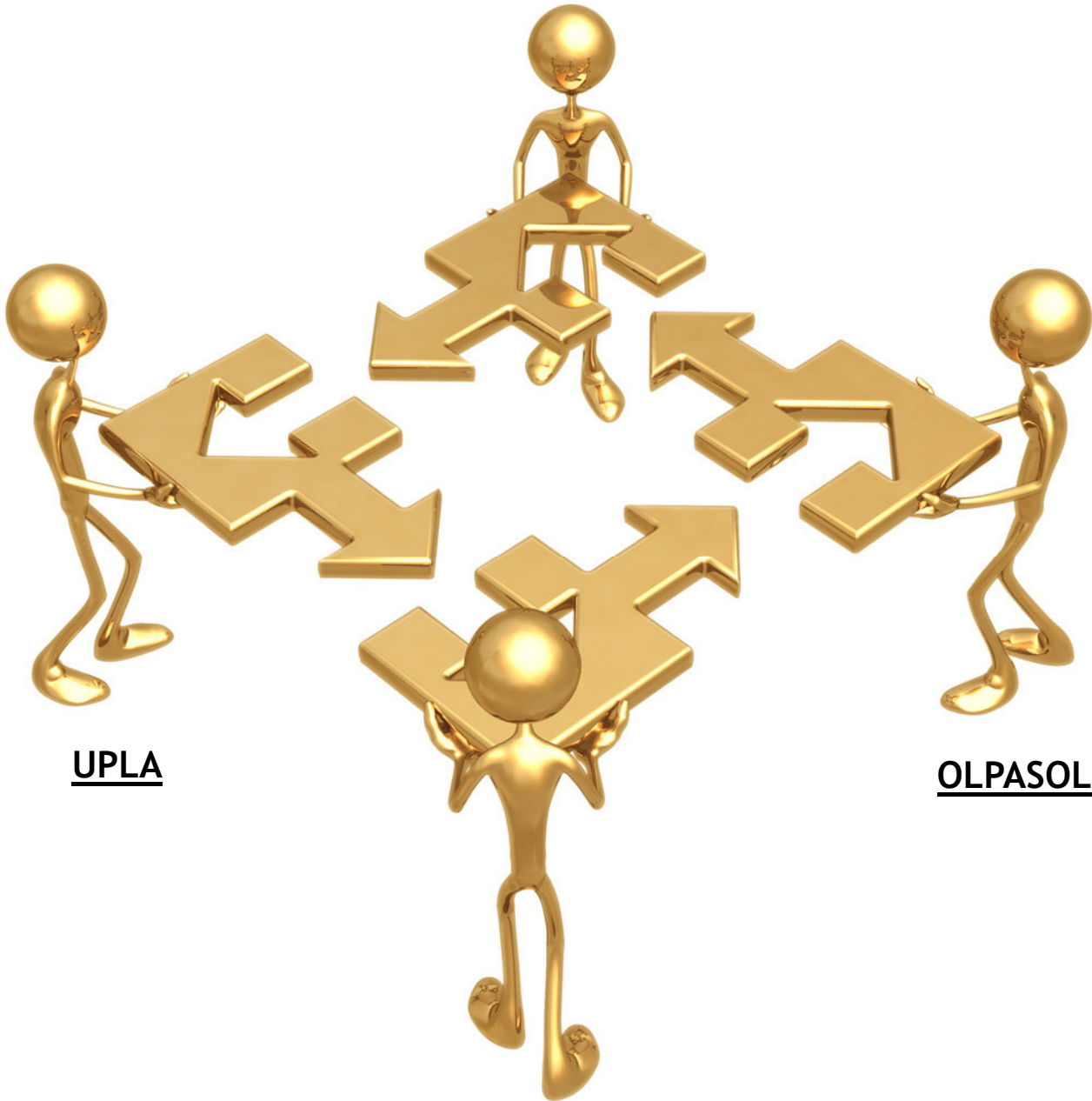
Listening to good advice
is worth much more than
jewelry made of gold.

Proverbs 25:11-12

Racing Riddles

Unscramble the names of the team of believers who worked in the early church.

APIRCILSL



UPLA

OLPASOL

LAIQAU

Racing Riddles

Unscramble the names of the team of believers who worked in the early church.

PRISCILLA



PAUL

APOLLOS

AQUILA

Word Search

r o c a n y s l e e v l i s m
e i s o t a i p p r l i h p p
s s d l o g s u o i c e r p r
c h w u s t j e s g r l s u e
g w o r t h m u c h m o r e c
o y r o l e a e r t s e a c i
l r t t i n h a n w n c l s s
d l h h s e i p s o a i o r c
s e m i t t h g i r g v n c i
s w o t e o b a l d o d i s l
e e r r n y y t v h g a c y l
h j e i i o c h e m c d a d i
b s b r n n s b r e v o r p h
e e p l g o m n n u t o o t p
e w e j s a g a d o o g i s f

The _____ at the _____
is like _____ set in _____.
_____ to _____
is _____ than _____ made of gold.
_____ 25:11-12

Word Search

r o c a n y s l e e v l i s m
e i s o t a i p p r l i h p p
s s d l o g s u o i c e r p r
c h w u s t j e s g r l s u e
g w o r t h m u c h m o r e c
o y r o l e a e r t s e a c i
l r t t i n h a n w n c l s s
d l h h s e i p s o a i o r c
s e m i t t h g i r g v n c i
s w o t e o b a l d o d i s l
e e r r n y y t v h g a c y l
h j e i i o c h e m c d a d i
b s b r n n s b r e v o r p h
e e p l g o m n n u t o o t p
e w e j s a g a d o o g i s f

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Proverbs 25:11-12