

# *The Traveling Tentmaker*



Paul travels to Corinth where he makes some new friends and spends time making tents with them. He reasons with the Jews and Greeks in the synagogue and reunites with Silas and Timothy. Paul is again taken to court, but is soon released. He continues his journey as Apollos begins a public ministry as well.



Cut apart the squares on the reproducible sheet, “What’s My Line?” Form two teams. Divide the cards in half. Select one person from each team to come forward. The object of this game is to have team members guess the occupation written at the top of each card. But the person giving the clues can’t say any of the words listed under the occupation. Have the person from Team 1 go first. Give him or her one minute to give clues. When an occupation is guessed, or when a forbidden word is spoken, go on to the next card. Each card must be played until it is guessed, or time runs out. You should look over the clue-giver’s shoulder to make sure none of the forbidden words (or any form of the forbidden words) is spoken. Give the team one point for every occupation guessed correctly. Give the other team one point for any forbidden words that are spoken. In this chapter we see that, in addition to being a missionary, Paul was a tentmaker.

DATE I USED THIS SESSION \_\_\_\_\_ GROUP I USED IT WITH \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES FOR NEXT TIME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**1. What you would consider to be the ideal job?**

**2. Why do you think Paul spent some time as a tent-maker in addition to all the preaching he did (vss. 1-4)?** (He didn't want to be a financial burden on others. See Acts 20:34; I Thessalonians 2:9; II Thessalonians 3:8. He didn't want to be accused of "being in it for the money," either. He also might have enjoyed working with his hands and working together with his friends. This shows we can serve God in many types of work.)

**3. When Silas and Timothy rejoined Paul (see 17:14), he returned to full-time preaching and teaching. He was again opposed by many of the Jews in the synagogue. Paul himself was from a highly educated Jewish background. How do you think he felt when his fellow Hebrews wouldn't listen to him (vss. 5, 6)?** (He grew very frustrated and followed his usual pattern of then turning to the Gentiles in the area.) **How far did he have to travel to find some ready listeners (vss. 7, 8)?** (Next door.)

**4. Can you think of anyone "next door" (in your immediate neighborhood) who may not have heard the good news about Jesus? How about "next door" to your locker at school? How about "next door" to other places you go on a regular basis?**

**5. Paul's job must have been a lonely one—always standing in opposition to the crowd and moving from town to town. What happened in Corinth to change that, at least for a while (vss. 9-11)?** (God let him know how much he was needed there, and Paul ended up staying for a year and a half.)

**6. But eventually, the same thing happened that happened elsewhere—Paul's opponents made trouble for him. This time they took him to court (vss. 12, 13). Paul didn't even get to give his defense this time. Why not (vss. 14-17)?** (Before he had the opportunity, the proconsul threw the case out of court.)

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**7. When Paul was freed, who “took the rap” instead?** (Sosthenes, the synagogue ruler, was beaten. Perhaps he had replaced Crispus, the synagogue leader whom Paul had just led to Christianity [vs. 8]. And, unable to bring a case against Paul, he received the effects of the dissatisfaction of his peers.)

**8. From Corinth, Paul went on his way, passing through Ephesus and other cities (vss. 18-23). How would you describe Paul’s attitude about the future, based on verse 21? (He realized that all his plans were subject to God’s will.)**

**9. Meanwhile, another teacher came to Ephesus. What kind of person was this man, Apollos (vss. 24-28)? What were his strengths and weaknesses? (He seemed very much like Paul in training, knowledge of Scripture, and bold speaking style. His beliefs needed a little shaping, but Priscilla and Aquila helped take care of that.)**

**10. Who are the Priscillas and Aquilas in your life—people who help explain things about God to you (vs. 26)?**



This chapter ends with Apollos “proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.” Divide into groups of three, and have each group develop a strategy for “proving” from the Bible that Jesus was the Messiah—perhaps to a Jewish person who is familiar with the Old Testament. Obviously, not everyone will believe, but only those who accept Jesus on faith. However, we can still build some pretty convincing arguments. If kids don’t know where to begin looking in the Old Testament, direct them to Isaiah 53. After a few minutes, share your strategies.

# WHAT'S MY LINE?

<b>Doctor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Nurse</li> <li>• Hospital</li> <li>• Ph. D.</li> <li>• Surgeon</li> </ul>	<b>Missionary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian</li> <li>• Overseas</li> <li>• Jesus</li> <li>• Church</li> <li>• Foreign</li> </ul>	<b>Chef</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Restaurant</li> <li>• Baker</li> <li>• Cook</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> </ul>	<b>Concert Pianist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piano</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Symphony</li> <li>• Play</li> <li>• Notes</li> </ul>
<b>Florist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowers</li> <li>• Plants</li> <li>• Arrange</li> <li>• Wedding</li> <li>• Bouquet</li> </ul>	<b>Accountant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers</li> <li>• Tax</li> <li>• Calculator</li> <li>• CPA</li> <li>• Audit</li> </ul>	<b>Teacher</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Class</li> <li>• Apple</li> <li>• Learn</li> <li>• Grade</li> </ul>	<b>Judge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law</li> <li>• Court</li> <li>• Jury</li> <li>• Gavel</li> <li>• Trial</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crops</li> <li>• Grow</li> <li>• Tractor</li> <li>• Rural</li> <li>• Harvest</li> </ul>	<b>Editor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• Clark Kent</li> <li>• Words</li> <li>• Copy</li> <li>• Proofread</li> </ul>	<b>Police Officer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cop</li> <li>• Law</li> <li>• Squad car</li> <li>• Arrest</li> <li>• Gun</li> </ul>	<b>Homemaker</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housewife</li> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Mother</li> <li>• Stay</li> <li>• Work</li> </ul>
<b>Barber</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair</li> <li>• Cut</li> <li>• Scissors</li> <li>• Trim</li> <li>• Stripe</li> </ul>	<b>Pilot</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airplane</li> <li>• Jet</li> <li>• Fly</li> <li>• Cockpit</li> <li>• Airport</li> </ul>	<b>Lumberjack</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest</li> <li>• Tree</li> <li>• Cut</li> <li>• Saw</li> <li>• Timber</li> </ul>	<b>Plumber</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pipes</li> <li>• Drain</li> <li>• Sink</li> <li>• Toilet</li> <li>• Liquid</li> </ul>
<b>Cashier</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk</li> <li>• Money</li> <li>• Register</li> <li>• Store</li> <li>• Check</li> </ul>	<b>Jockey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Ride</li> <li>• Kentucky</li> <li>• Pony</li> </ul>	<b>Pastor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church</li> <li>• Preacher</li> <li>• Minister</li> <li>• Priest</li> <li>• Seminary</li> </ul>	<b>Mechanic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automobile</li> <li>• Car</li> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Fix</li> <li>• Goodwrench</li> </ul>
<b>Rock Singer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band</li> <li>• Play</li> <li>• Perform</li> <li>• Concert</li> <li>• Guitar</li> </ul>	<b>Carpenter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood</li> <li>• Tools</li> <li>• Jesus</li> <li>• Make</li> <li>• Build</li> </ul>	<b>Salesperson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Commission</li> <li>• Buy</li> <li>• Door-to-door</li> </ul>	<b>Shepherd</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheep</li> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Lord</li> <li>• Flock</li> <li>• Baa</li> </ul>
<b>Photographer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camera</li> <li>• Picture</li> <li>• Film</li> <li>• Develop</li> <li>• Take</li> </ul>	<b>Truck Driver</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road</li> <li>• Semi</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Rig</li> <li>• Wheel</li> </ul>	<b>Clown</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circus</li> <li>• Make-up</li> <li>• Laugh</li> <li>• Bozo</li> <li>• Ronald</li> </ul>	<b>Artist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint</li> <li>• Draw</li> <li>• Palette</li> <li>• Color</li> <li>• Canvas</li> </ul>