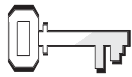


Do You Understand?



References

Acts 8:26-39; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 106-109



Memory Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation" (Romans 1:16).
(Text completed next week.)

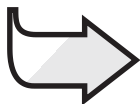


Objectives

The children will:
Know that they serve when they help others understand the Bible.

Feel motivated to share the Bible with others.

Respond by sharing with others what they have studied in the Bible.



The Message

We serve when we help others understand the Bible.

Monthly Theme

We look for ways to help others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

An angel of the Lord tells Philip to go to a desert road. Philip obeys and meets an Ethiopian eunuch riding in his chariot on the way home from worshipping in Jerusalem. The eunuch is reading the book of Isaiah and Philip asks if he understands what he is reading. Philip joins the Ethiopian in his chariot and explains the good news about Jesus. The eunuch is baptized and goes on his way rejoicing.

This is a lesson about service.

The good news is too good to keep to oneself. It must be shared everywhere with anyone who will listen. The angels and the Holy Spirit could spread it without us. However, they do not wish to deprive us of the joy of service and the privilege of opening the Holy Scriptures to others. Daily Spirit-guided Bible study will fill even children to overflowing, so they can make other people's lives happier by sharing the Bible with them.

Philip started to explain the good news where the man was already reading—in Isaiah. We can teach children to start sharing by explaining something about which people have a question.

Teacher Enrichment

"This Ethiopian represented a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip. . . . There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. . . . The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God's way of working. It is His plan that men are to work for their fellow men" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	<i>A. Pair Ups</i> <i>B. Clay Bible Friends</i>	Bible modeling clay or play-dough
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week class prayer diary, pencil, star stickers (optional)
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, large chariot cutout (optional), questions on paper, basket or bowl Bible, <i>Sing for Joy</i> songbook Bibles, index cards, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Been There, Done That</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>My Story With God</i>	paper; scissors; crayons, markers or colored pencils; hole punch; yarn or ribbon or stapler

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity that is most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- Bible

A. Pair Ups

In small churches, arrange for the children to join the adults for this activity. The generations will benefit from mixing and getting to know each other better.

Ask the children to find a partner whom they do not know real well. (Best friends are not allowed.) Ask the partners to see how many things they can find that are the same for both of them. For instance, they might both have a brother or both be born in June. After three to four minutes, invite one pair to come up front. Ask them to tell what they have that is the same for both of them. As they name the first thing, ask if anyone else also has that in common with them. Let children raise their hands. Say: **While you were finding things you had in common, did you find anything that was different?** Let people raise their hands and tell about the differences.

Debriefing

Ask: **Is it easier to be friends with someone you know or someone you don't know?** (someone you know) **Why?** (Because it is uncomfortable to talk to someone you don't know. They may not be friendly, or they may not like children.) **Now that you know more about your partner, will it be easier or harder for you to talk to them about God?** (easier) **When we make friends, we're making friends for Jesus too, and then it's easier to talk to them about the Bible.** Read aloud 1 Timothy 4:13, first part. **God wants us to share the Bible with others. Today's message tells us ...**



WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- modeling clay or play-dough

B. Clay Bible Friends

Give each child a piece of modeling clay or play-dough to make something that reminds them of a Bible character. (They mustn't tell anyone what they're making.) When they're done, the children take turns showing their creation and telling about the Bible character it represents.

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you find it easy or hard to make something out of clay?** (easy, not too easy, hard, etc.) **Do you find it easy or hard to explain about the Bible to someone?** (Some may think it hard; if so, tell them you have good news for them.) **You've**

just shared the Bible with someone else when you told about a Bible character.
Was it hard? (not so hard) **Every time you talk about something in the Bible**
with someone else you're serving God.



WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

**Any
Time**



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)

"This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)

"I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 135)

"Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify someone who shared the Bible with another.



Offering

Say: **You can help share the Bible with others by bringing your offering to Sabbath School. It will be used to help others learn of God's love.**

You Need:

- offering container used last week



Prayer

Ask the class to share the names of people in their lives who still don't know the Bible. Write their names in the class prayer diary. Pick some children to ask God to help them be unashamed to share His good news with these people. Later, when the children share the Bible with the people listed in the diary, put a star by the names.

You Need:

- class prayer diary, pencil and star stickers (optional)

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- large chariot cutout (optional)
- questions on paper (see Debriefing)
- basket or bowl

Experiencing the Story

Involve the children in an interactive Bible story. The children will speak their parts as you prompt them after you have said them first.

Characters: Philip, Ethiopian, the other children will respond by saying “**Jesus saves!**” every time you say “**Jesus**” during the story.

Costumes: Bible-times costumes

Props: Bible, big chariot cutout (optional) that can be held by the “Ethiopian” to look like he is riding in it.

Read or tell the story.

[Position Philip up front.] Philip was one of the deacons in the early church, like Stephen. After Stephen died, the Jewish authorities began putting Christians in prison, so many people left Jerusalem. And everywhere those people went, they told others the good news about **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*].

Philip fled to Samaria. There he worked miracles and preached the good news about **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*]. Many people believed because Philip shared the good news with them.

One day an angel appeared to Philip and told him to go to a certain road. So Philip went. *(Motion for Philip to move from one side of the room to the other.)* He didn’t ask why he was going, or what he was supposed to do when he got there. He just went. And on his way, he met a man from Ethiopia who was riding in his chariot. *(Motion for the Ethiopian in his “chariot” to come and meet Philip from the opposite direction.)*

Now, this man was an important man. He had an important job for the queen of his country. He was in charge of all her money. He had been to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home.

Philip saw the Ethiopian, and then he heard God’s gentle whisper. The gentle whisper told him to run up to the man’s chariot, so he did. Philip heard the Ethiopian man reading a part of the book of Isaiah that talks about **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*].

“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I, unless someone explains it?” the man said. “Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?”

So Philip began with the verses the man was reading and told him the good news about **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*].

What is the good news about **Jesus**? [*“Jesus saves!”*] That’s right! You answered my question, because the good news is that He died to save you and me. Philip and the Ethiopian went on riding together and studying. [*They “ride together” and talk.*]

Soon they came to some water, and the man said, “Look! Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” So they left the chariot and went into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian. As they came up out of the water, Philip disappeared. The Spirit of God took him away to share the gospel of **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*] somewhere else.

The Ethiopian never saw Philip again. But because Philip studied the Bible with him, the Ethiopian went back to his country and began serving others, sharing from Scripture [*show a Bible*] the gospel of **Jesus** [*“Jesus saves!”*], just as Philip had done. And that’s what God wants us to do too.

Debriefing

In advance, write the following questions on small slips of paper.

Have the children take turns drawing questions out of a basket or bowl. The child who picks the question may either answer it or ask another child to answer it.

1. Why did Philip go to the road where the Ethiopian was? (Because the Spirit impressed him to go there.)
2. Did Philip know why the Spirit sent him on that road? (No.)
3. What was the Ethiopian doing? (Studying the book of Isaiah.)
4. What did Phillip say to the man? ("Do you understand what you are reading?")
5. What happened when they saw water? (The Ethiopian wanted to be baptized.)
6. What do you have to do to be baptized? (Believe that Jesus died for you.)
7. What happened to Philip after he baptized the Ethiopian? (The Spirit took Him away.)
8. Why do we study the Bible with others? (So they have an opportunity to believe on Jesus too; because we want to serve God.)
9. What did you like about this story?

Say: **We can be like Philip and share the Good News that Jesus saves.**

Have the children say the message:



**WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP
OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE
BIBLE.**

Memory Verse

Read aloud
Romans 1:16.
Teach the children
to sing the memory
verse to the tune, "I Will
Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*,
no. 135).

You Need:

- Bible
- *Sing for Joy*
songbook

I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because the gospel, because the
gospel,

I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it's the power of God.

Chorus:

It's the power of God, it's the power
of God.

I am not ashamed of the gospel,
it's the power of God.

(*Jump up, reach up, and shout*) for SAL-
VATION!

Bible Study

Form three groups. Each group will
get one Bible passage to find, read, write
on cards, and underline all the com-
mands; then they will share with the
whole group. Adults assist as needed.
Tell them when to start. The verses to be
read are:

Matthew 4:19, 20 (Follow Me. Come
with Me.)

Matthew 28:19, 20 (Go, make dis-
ciples, baptize, teach.)

Jeremiah 1:7, 8 (Do not say, "I am
only a child." Go, tell. Do not be afraid.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What do these texts tell us?**
(God wants us to tell others about Jesus,
to share the good news of the gospel.)

**When we share the good news about
Jesus, who is with us?** (The Holy Spirit.)

**Why don't we need to be afraid to
share the good news?** (The Holy Spirit
will help us.) **Let's say our message
together.**



**WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP
OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE
BIBLE.**

You Need:

- Bibles
- index cards
- pencils

Applying the Lesson

Been There, Done That

Say: **I am going to name situations that you might have been in. If you have, say, “*Been there, done that!*” and go to the wall on your right. If you haven’t, go to the wall on your left.**

Afterward, have one person who had the experience briefly tell about it.

Situations:

Getting lost outdoors or in a shopping mall.

Been present to watch the birth of a baby animal.

Had someone, a pet, a relative, or a friend die.

Been in a wedding.

Debriefing

Ask: **What were you thinking when the others were telling their experience? Do you enjoy hearing or telling about experiences?**

Each one of those situations we just talked about is in the Bible. So when someone is telling you about being lost, you could tell them about someone in the Bible. Who would that be? (lost boy, lost sheep, or Jonah) **What birth in the Bible could you tell about?** (Jesus’ birth, Moses’, etc.) **What about death?** (Jairus’s daughter, widow of Nain’s son, Lazarus, Jesus, Dorcas) **What about a wedding?** (wise and foolish virgins)

When things like that happen to you or your friends, it gives you a chance to share the Bible with them. Remember:



WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

Uri’s Mountain (Optional Story)

It was summer vacation. Uri and his two friends needed to earn some money. So together they went out to sell Bibles.

“Who knows, we might make a friend for Jesus today,” Uri said as he and two friends walked down the only street of a country village.

“Yeah!” his friends agreed. “Lots of people will know Jesus if they buy a New Testament.”

At the other side of the village, a little path led up the mountain to a tiny cottage. A tiny old woman sat out front.

“Good morning. Would you like to buy a book?” Uri asked as they reached her. Being two years older than his 10-year-old friends, Uri spoke for them. “If you can’t buy the book, we can read it to you.”

“I’d like that,” the woman said. So the boys took turns reading from the Gospels about a man healed on the Sabbath.

“Are you Sabbathkeepers?” the woman asked. When the boys nodded, the woman’s eyes filled with tears. She told the boys that she had been baptized 45 years before. But her husband had been imprisoned for his faith and had died there. The woman lost all connection with the Seventh-day Adventist Church until Uri and his friends came that day.

The boys sang a favorite hymn for the woman and promised to take her to church. The next Sabbath the woman took part in the Communion service for the first time in years. She was so happy that her eyes shone. Two weeks later she died.

“You were led by God to find that woman,” Uri’s mother told him.

It’s true: we serve when we help others understand the Bible.

4

Sharing the Lesson

My Story With God

In their class groups, help the children make a “How I Learn About God” book by folding two sheets of paper in half and tying yarn around the fold.

Have the children write or draw in the book how they have learned about Jesus. For example, they can illustrate someone giving their family a Bible or religious book. They can write or draw about their family hearing a Bible story in church or at home or about them sitting in Sabbath School. Before they start, they may need to tell their story to the adult who can then help them design or write their book.

Children may need to complete the book at home. Tell the children to show their story books to adults or read them to younger children.

Debriefing

Before they leave, have the teachers gather their group around them and repeat the memory verse together, promise not to be afraid to tell their story, and to say the name of one person they want to be sure to show it to. Then have them say the message together:



**WE SERVE WHEN WE HELP
OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE
BIBLE.**

Closing

Ask a child to pray and ask God to help him/her not to be ashamed of the gospel and to share the Bible with anyone who will listen. Close with a prayer for all the children. Ask God to be with them as they share the Bible with their friends and family.

You Need:

- paper
- scissors
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon or stapler

Do You Understand?

References

Acts 8:26-39; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 106-109

Memory Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation" (Romans 1:16).

The Message

We serve when we help others understand the Bible.

*"An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip," Dad read.**

"Do you think an angel would ever speak to me?" Trevor interrupted, his eyes shining.

Dad smiled. "It really would be awesome, wouldn't it? And yes, it's possible that someday God may use an angel to speak to you. However, whether you hear God's message from an angel, the Bible, or godly people, the important thing is that you obey, as Philip did." He patted Trevor's back, and together they continued reading.

"The angel said to Philip, 'Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road.' So Philip got ready and went."

Dad looked up. "Did you catch that?" he asked. "The angel only told Philip where to go. He didn't tell him why or what would happen when he got there.

And Philip



didn't ask questions. He just went."

Dad read on. "On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, an important officer in the service of the queen of the Ethiopians. He was responsible for taking care of all her money."

"Hmmm," Dad thought aloud. "That Ethiopian couldn't have been traveling alone. He was a high government official. He must have had soldiers to protect him. And he had servants too."

Dad began to read again. "He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' So Philip ran toward the chariot."

"He did it again!" Trevor exclaimed. "God spoke to Philip again!"

"He sure did," Dad said. "And Philip obeyed right away—again. I think that's why God could use Philip so well. Philip was a man who listened. And he was always eager to do what God wanted to get done."

"Listen to the rest of the story," Dad went on. "He heard the man reading from Isaiah, the prophet. Philip asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He answered, 'How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!' Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him."

"Well, I guess *then* Philip knew why the angel sent him to the desert!" Trevor said.

"I think you're right," Dad agreed. "The Ethiopian was reading a verse that says, 'He was like a sheep being led to be killed. . . . He was shamed and treated unfairly.' The Ethiopian man looked at Philip and said, 'Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about?' So Philip jumped right in. He told the Ethiopian the good news about Jesus."

"And do you know what happened next?" Dad asked.

"What?"

"Well, as they were riding down the road, studying together, they came to

some water. And the Ethiopian said, 'Look! Here is some water! What is stopping me from being baptized?' So Philip baptized him. And *then* do you know what happened?"

"What?"

"The Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The Ethiopian never saw him again!"

"Wow!" Trevor breathed.

Dad smiled. "This story really shows us how God will do whatever it takes. He will find a way to reach someone who wants to know Him. And He uses the people who already know Him to help others understand."

"Do you think someday He'll use me?" Trevor looked at Dad hopefully.

Dad put his arm around Trevor's shoulder and gave him a hug. "I'm *sure* He will!"

*Note: Quotations are taken from Acts 8:26-36, *International Children's Bible*.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, take a ride with your family. Make believe that you are riding with Philip and the Ethiopian. While riding, read the lesson story.
- Read Isaiah 53:7, 8 together. This is the scripture the Ethiopian was reading. What does it mean?
- Teach your memory verse song to your family.
- Pray that God will help you tell others about Jesus.

Sunday

- During family worship, read the lesson story from Acts 8:26-39. Look in the back of a Bible, an encyclopedia, or, with your parents' permission, on the Internet for a map of Bible lands. Find Jerusalem and Gaza on the map.
- Draw a picture of a "desert road." (For ideas, see "desert" in an encyclopedia or, with your parents' permission, on the Internet.) What might you have seen on the desert road where Philip met the Ethiopian? Add Philip and the Ethiopian in the chariot to your picture.
- Pray for people who are traveling today.
- Sing your memory verse song.

Monday

- With your family, read Acts 1:8. Talk about what this verse means to you.
- Think of someone in your Sabbath School who is too young to read the lesson alone. Call and tell that person the story. Help them learn the memory verse.

Tuesday

- During family worship, read Acts 1:8 again. Choose a Bible story. Make some pictures about

it. Use the pictures to help you tell the story to a neighborhood friend. Find a definite time to visit your friend. Pray before you go.

- Find Ethiopia on a map. Find out five facts about Ethiopia today. Pray for missionaries who work there.

- Say or sing your memory verse to a friend.

Wednesday

- With your family, read Acts 8:30, 31. Read together and talk about your memory verse. Do you understand it? If not, ask your family to help you.
- Read together Luke 24:36, 45. Who opens our minds to understand the Bible?
- Sing "Open Our Eyes" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 149).

Thursday

- Share your Bible lesson with an older person. Show them your "How I Learn About God" booklet that you made in Sabbath School. Then tell your Bible story and say your memory verse.
- Ask someone to tell you about their baptism. Talk to your family about being baptized. When will you be ready?

Friday

- During worship, sing or say your memory verse together. Then act out the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. When you tell about the Ethiopian reading the Scriptures, read aloud Acts 8:32-35 (or Isaiah 53:7, 8). Tell how you would have explained Jesus to him. Then finish acting out the story. Ask your parents to tell you about accepting Jesus.
- Pray for the people with whom you shared the Bible this week. Write their names on a strip of paper and use it as a bookmark in your Bible.