

Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus Acts 8:26-40



► **Bible Point**
Follow where God leads.

Key Verse
“Trust in the Lord
with all your heart”
(Proverbs 3:5).


**Weaving Faith
Into Life**
Kids will follow where
God leads them.

First- and second-graders can be unresponsive or uncooperative to requests from parents or teachers. They will answer “No!” to a request and can be very stubborn. This can be a normal part of development as they assert their individuality. As kids learn in this lesson that God wants their best, use this lesson to encourage them to respond positively to God’s call to follow him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Trust and Obey <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Follow “Directors” to the student books.	Bible, My Bible Fun, blindfolds, pens	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
2 Bible Exploration	The Choice <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Sing a song about the Key Verse, and learn that Philip said yes to God’s unexpected direction.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, scissors, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make scrolls, and learn that Philip helped the Ethiopian know Jesus.	My Bible Fun, CD player, scissors, glue, 2 craft sticks per child Teacher Pack: CD	Review the “Key to the Scroll” section on the My Bible Fun page to prepare to help kids decode the message.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Say Yes to God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game to practice saying yes.		
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus

Acts 8:26-40

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Philip Obeyed God’s Leading

According to Acts 8:4-8, Philip was preaching Christ, healing people, and bringing great joy to a Samaritan city. But God had another plan for Philip which included guiding the first non-Jewish convert to faith in Jesus and God’s plan resulted in Christianity being taken to Ethiopia. Philip responded in obedience.

Since the Ethiopian eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, we can assume he knew something of the Jewish faith. He may have been quite fully committed to the faith because he had traveled quite a distance to worship, perhaps as far as 200 miles! He had likely been inspired by his time of worship, because he was reading from Isaiah as he rode along. We might find it strange that Philip could hear what he was reading, but it was common in ancient times to read aloud. In fact, the language was such that sounding out the words was almost necessary.

Philip Was Prepared for Questions

At the Holy Spirit’s prompting, Philip overcame not only any fears or questions about non-Jews becoming Christians, but also any racial prejudice he may have had. The Ethiopian was a native of Africa and therefore was black-skinned. God is not concerned with the color of our skin, and neither was Philip.

Philip had no difficulty answering the Ethiopian’s questions. He had probably been answering the same types of questions from the Samaritans. God had prepared the right person to present the gospel to the Ethiopian on the road.

When Philip told the man about Jesus, the Ethiopian apparently expressed belief immediately. Baptism was taken very seriously in the early church. Philip must have been fully convinced of the certainty and sincerity of the Ethiopian’s belief, because he consented to baptize this traveler.

The Jesus Connection

Having completed his task, Philip was again sent on his way by God. The text seems to indicate that God miraculously swept him away, on to his next mission. The Ethiopian continued on his way, and tradition tells us that he spread the message of Christ in Ethiopia, soon baptizing the queen and others there.

We often don’t know why God guides us to do certain things. But when we know what God wants us to do, we must respond in faith and action. Who knows what God will do through us if we respond faithfully to the guidance of his Holy Spirit?

What area of your life is God leading you to listen closely to his voice? You can write your prayer here.



Trust and Obey Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
blindfolds
pens

Trust and Obey Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

1 GETTING STARTED

Trust and Obey

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we'll talk about a choice we all have: whether to trust God's lead and say yes to him or not. Let's think about why we can trust God to lead us.**

Put kids in pairs. Have one person from each pair stand at one end of the room, and have the other person in each pair stand at the opposite end of the room. Then help the kids on one side of the room put on blindfolds. Write kids' names on their My Bible Fun pages and then place the pages in the center of the room so there's some space between each one. Say: **The goal is for each blindfolded person to find his or her own My Bible Fun page by listening to the partner's directions.**

Tell the children who aren't blindfolded to begin using just their voices to direct their partners to their My Bible Fun pages. Remind the "Directors" to watch closely to prevent any collisions. When the blindfolded children find their My Bible Fun pages, have partners switch roles and play again.

Say: **The Bible tells us we can trust God because he'll lead us the right way.**

Hand out pens, and say: **We follow directions all the time. Look at the "I Follow" section of your page. The pictures show things or people that give directions. Take some time now to circle the pictures of the things that you trust enough to follow.** After a minute, invite kids to explain what they did and didn't circle.

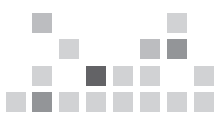
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was being a Director in our game like being able to see the big picture or into the future?
- How was being blindfolded like not being able to see the big picture or into the future?
- If you trust someone, how do you respond to his or her directions?
- Can you trust God to lead you as you trusted your partner to lead you? Why or why not?

Say: **Just like in our game, when someone gives us directions, we have to decide whether or not to follow them based on whether we trust that person. Today we'll**



hear about two men who had to decide whether or not to trust God's lead, and we'll learn what it means to ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS in our lives.



2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

The Choice

What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 10 My Bible Fun pages, and point out the "Scroll" section. Ask kids to cut out the rectangle with the writing on it. After just a few seconds, while children are still cutting, ask them to stop what they're doing and gather around you in a different area of the room.

Ask:

- **What was it like to obey my direction to gather around me even though you were in the middle of cutting?** Allow time.

Say: **Today we'll hear about a man named Philip who had a similar experience, but instead of a teacher, one of God's angels directed him to go to a certain road.** Open your Bible to Acts 8:26-40, and show kids the passage. Then read aloud Acts 8:26-29.

Ask:

- **What's surprising to you about this situation?** Allow time.

Say: **Philip was just a regular guy walking along, and an angel showed up and told him to go to a very important man—and Philip didn't even know why God wanted him to do that. But Philip trusted God, so he did it. Explain to a friend whether you trust God enough to stop what you're doing and follow him when he leads you.**
Allow time.

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us more about trusting God.** Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show it to kids. Say: **Listen while I read it: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **Now let's worship God by singing our Key Verse together!**

Hand out the lyrics pages. Then play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14 on the CD).



Trust in the Lord (*trust in the Lord*)
With all your heart. (*with all your heart*)
Lean not on your own understanding. (*understanding*)
In all your ways, (*in all your ways*)
Acknowledge him; (*acknowledge him*)
He will make your paths straight.

The Choice Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- scissors
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Trust in the Lord" (Psalm 3:5-6) (track 14)





Once you begin that way,
Don't you ever, ever stray;
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.
Once you begin that way,
Don't you ever, ever stray;
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Trust in the Lord *(trust in the Lord)*
With all your heart. *(with all your heart)*
Lean not on your own understanding. *(understanding)*
In all your ways, *(in all your ways)*
Acknowledge him; *(acknowledge him)*
He will make your paths straight.

Yeah, he will make your paths straight.
Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When everyone is familiar with the song, invite kids to make up motions to go with the song. Let one child lead the others with the motions they made up for the song. As time allows, switch leaders and have a new child lead the song and motions.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had to stop what you were doing to follow someone's direction.
- Why might knowing the Key Verse help you follow God?

Say: **Philip trusted God and said yes to God. In fact, he ran to the important man's chariot. Like Philip, we can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS. When we trust God, we know everything he tells us to do is the best thing for us. To find out what happened next, let's go back to our My Bible Fun pages and finish making our craft.**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids finish cutting out the rectangles on the My Bible Fun pages. Give each child two craft sticks, and show kids how to glue a craft stick to each of the two opposite edges of a rectangle. Then have kids do the same. As the glue dries, ask the kids to read their squares. Wait for a minute while children attempt to read.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus Supplies

My Bible Fun
CD player
scissors
glue
2 craft sticks per child
Teacher Pack
CD: "Ethiopian's Choice"
(track 15)

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus Easy Prep

Review the "Key to the Scroll" section on the My Bible Fun page to prepare to help kids decode the message.



Say: **This message is written with letters we don't know. It's really confusing. That's actually how the important man felt—the man who Philip went to see. He was reading the Bible, but he didn't understand what it said.**

Direct kids to the “Key to the Scroll” section of their My Bible Fun pages, and help them figure out the scroll's message.

Say: **Just as you needed a key to figure out your scrolls, the important man needed a key to figure out the Bible.**

God sent Philip to help the important man understand the Bible and the message that Jesus saves us. Now the important man had an important choice to make. He could doubt what Philip told him about Jesus, or he could trust that God sent Philip to help him know Jesus. Let's see what happened!

Play “Ethiopian's Choice” (track 15 on the CD). When the CD segment is finished, continue.

Say: **The man decided to trust God and believe in Jesus! To show that he believed in Jesus, the important man was baptized right then and there. Then he went on his way, rejoicing and praising God. Let's rejoice, too, that we can trust God and believe in Jesus.**

First, let's review our Key Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5). Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Have kids form two single-file lines facing each other. Have kids carry their scrolls as they walk past the other line, high fiving and saying, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” They can turn around and continue walking and giving high fives a few times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking when I asked you to read the scroll?**
- **Tell about a time you were confused about a decision you had to make.**
- **What did the important man do that can help you follow God's leading?**

Say: **Philip wasn't the only one who listened to God and followed him. When the important man heard and understood God's message about Jesus, he also followed God. We can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS, too. And like we did in our last activity, we can help others remember to trust and follow God.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Say Yes to God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: One of God's angels told Philip what to do—and he followed. Then God's Spirit told Philip what to do, and again he followed. Finally, God sent Philip to help the important man know about Jesus. God worked through Philip to help the important man know what the Bible said—and the important man followed God, too.

There are many ways God might tell us to do things. What are some ways God can give us directions? Allow time. God can talk to us through the Bible, through people, and when we pray.

Let's play a game to practice saying yes. Everyone think of a direction you can give that others would be able to follow right now. If kids have trouble thinking of ideas, suggest that the directions could be "Say our Key Verse," "Shake your arms," or "Make a silly noise."

Say: Do you have your idea? When I say "go" you'll give that same direction to as many people as you can. You can give the direction to only one person at a time, and you have to wait until the person follows your direction before moving on. Also, take the time to follow that person's directions. Ready? Go! Let kids play for about five minutes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to follow others' directions in this game?
- How was that like or unlike following God's directions?
- What things would help you know when God is really giving you directions?

Say: In our game, some of the things our friends asked were kind of silly. And sometimes what God asks of us might seem a little silly at first, too. But when we're good friends with God, it helps us know he's really the one giving us directions. And when he does, we want to follow. Like Philip and the important man did, we can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Play a game of Follow the Leader with your friends. When you finish playing, tell your friends that God wants us to follow where he leads us.**
- **Every morning before you get out of bed, ask God to lead you that day—and then follow where he leads!**
- **Teach your family the Key Verse, and say it together each morning this week.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Philip trusted God and followed him. Like Philip, we can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS. Let's show God we trust him this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about following God's lead. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that we can always trust him and what he asks us to do. Give each child a chance to pray to God about something he or she trusts God for. Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, you always lead us to the best place. Help us trust you this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun



Lyrics ■■■■

Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trust in the Lord (*trust in the Lord*)
With all your heart. (*with all your heart*)
Lean not on your own understanding. (*understanding*)
In all your ways, (*in all your ways*)
Acknowledge him; (*acknowledge him*)
He will make your paths straight.

**Once you begin that way,
 Don't you ever, ever stray;
 You'll be on your way to an amazing life.
 Once you begin that way,
 Don't you ever, ever stray;
 You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Trust in the Lord (*trust in the Lord*)
With all your heart. (*with all your heart*)
Lean not on your own understanding. (*understanding*)
In all your ways, (*in all your ways*)
Acknowledge him; (*acknowledge him*)
He will make your paths straight.

**Yeah, he will make your paths straight.
 Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

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