

Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus

Acts 8:26-40

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are learning to respond quickly when asked to do something. However, kids often respond faster to “Come in for ice cream” than “It’s time to clean up!” It’s difficult for children this age to listen because they’re still learning how to prioritize what’s being asked of them with what they want to do. Use this lesson to help children listen to God and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit—as Philip did in the Bible.



► **Bible Point**
Listen to God.

Key Verse

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will listen to God.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.</p> | <p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p> | |
| <p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Now I Know Sing an ABC song about the Holy Spirit.</p> | <p>Bible</p> | |
| <p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p> | <p>Theo’s News Find out what a megaphone has to do with the Bible.</p> | <p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, megaphone (or paper rolled to look like a megaphone), CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p> | <p>Put the megaphone inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.</p> |
| | <p>Bible Time: Philip Listens Listen and respond to instructions as Philip does in the Bible.</p> | <p>Bible, CD player, 2 spoons per child Teacher Pack: CD</p> | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p> | <p>Center 1: Listening to God Use cotton swabs to decorate their student pages.</p> | My Bible Playground, pencils, cotton swabs, bowls, paint | Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. |
| | <p>Center 2: Eager Ears Make and eat a snack that looks like a face with large ears.</p> | 3 apple slices per child, raisins, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional) | |
| | <p>Center 3: I Hear Something! Listen and find the source of the noise.</p> | | |
| | <p>Center 4: Ear Exercises Make a shaker and learn about listening to God.</p> | 1 plastic Easter egg (or small plastic container) per child, paper clips | |
| <p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p> | My Bible Playground | |
| | <p>Listening Prayer Pray and listen for God to speak to them.</p> | | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p> | | |

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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 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 what is now northern Sudan and 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?

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



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19),
"Love Is Patient and
Kind" (1 Corinthians
13:4-5a) (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that we can ► **LISTEN TO GOD.** Let's continue to worship by singing "Love Is Patient and Kind." We have such a wonderful, loving God!

Lead kids in singing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.



Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.

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Love is patient and kind.
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Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.

"Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **When we are patient and kind, we listen to other people. We also ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's find out more about that.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Now I Know

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Encourage children to spend a few minutes sharing about the things they're learning at home or school. Some may be learning to read, spell their name, count, tie their shoes, or ride a bike.

Say: **Wow! You're all learning so many new things every day! Isn't it great to have people at home and at school who can teach you all these wonderful things? God has also given us the Holy Spirit to teach us!** Have kids clap their hands with you to celebrate God giving us the Holy Spirit.

Say: **Now let's sing a song together about the Holy Spirit!**

Teach children the following "ABC Song" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."



Now I Know Supplies

Bible





**A-B-C-D-E-F-G, the Holy Spirit teaches me.
H-I-J-K-L-M-N, I learned that Jesus is my friend.
O-P-Q-R-S-T-U, he teaches me good things to do.
V and W-X-Y-Z, the Holy Spirit teaches me.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about something you learned from a teacher.
- What can we do to listen to God and learn from him?

Say: **The Holy Spirit helps us learn more about God and helps us so that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
megaphone (or paper rolled to look like a megaphone)
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the megaphone inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the megaphone around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, have you talked through a megaphone before? When?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Megaphones are used to make a voice sound louder, so others can hear it. But you can also hold a megaphone up to your ear, and it will help you hear better.

Teacher: Thanks! We do have a lot of good things to hear today.

Theo: Like what?

Teacher: Today in the Bible we'll learn how Philip listened to God! Let's find out some ways we can ► **LISTEN TO GOD**, too!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!
Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

Bible Time: Philip Listens

What You’ll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 8, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us to be brave and that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let’s listen to the Bible to hear how Philip listened to God and obeyed him. While we listen, we’ll hear a beat and then be asked to repeat it back by hitting spoons together. Let’s try it once.**

Hand out two spoons to each child. Beat a simple rhythm, such as clap, clap, clap-clap-clap. Have kids repeat back the rhythm by hitting their spoons together.

Play “Philip Listens to God” (track 22 on the CD) and pause the CD when directed. Afterward, collect the spoons.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or hard about being a good listener, obeying, and repeating the beat back to me with your spoons?**
- **What can you do to listen and obey God and “repeat back” what God wants you do to in your life?**

Say: **Each time God told Philip to go somewhere, Philip listened! You did a great job listening and obeying while listening, too. We can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.



Bible Time: Philip Listens Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - 2 spoons per child
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “Philip Listens to God” (track 22)



Center 1: Listening to God Supplies

My Bible Playground
pencils
cotton swabs
bowls
paint

Center 1: Listening to God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
10 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Center 2: Eager Ears Supplies

3 apple slices per child
raisins
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**

CENTER 1:

Listening to God

What You'll Do

Set out shallow bowls of paint and several cotton swabs for each child. Distribute the Lesson 10 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **Cotton swabs are sometimes used to clean around our ears! We use our ears to hear and listen! There are lots of ways we can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Have kids use the cotton swabs to paint around the edge of each way to listen to God. As kids each decorate a picture, have them tell a nearby person the way to listen to God shown in their picture.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which pictures show your favorite ways to listen to God?
- Tell about a time you used your ears and were a good listener to your parents.

Say: **God wants everyone to ► LISTEN TO GOD so we know how much he loves us!**

CENTER 2:

Eager Ears

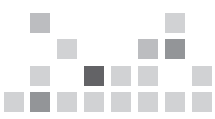
What You'll Do

Say: **God has very important things to tell us, and he wants to make sure we hear each and every word. We can be eager to listen to God. That means we can be excited and ready to listen and learn all that we can about our wonderful God.**

Have kids clean their hands. Give each child a paper plate. Place 3 apples slices and a handful of raisins on each of their plates.

Say: **Why do you think God gave us eyes? noses? mouths? ears?**

Encourage kids to put the two apple slices on each side of their plates to look like ears and one at the bottom center of their plates to look like a mouth. Then have kids use the raisins to give their faces eyes and noses.



Ask:

- **When are times you can use your ears to listen to God?**

Say: **When we listen to songs about God, we use our ears to hear of the wonderful things he has done. Listening to the Bible helps us hear of God’s love and the good plans he has for us.**

Let’s thank God for our snack and for giving us eager ears to listen to him.

Before the children eat their Eager Ears, lead kids in a prayer of thanks to God for their snack.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What makes you happy and want to smile?**
- **What can you do to listen to and obey God this week?**

Say: **God uses our parents, teachers, and others to show how much he loves and cares for us. Listening to what they tell us about God is always a good way to use our ears.** Cup one of your hands over your ear and gesture like you’re listening to kids. Have kids cup their ears like they’re listening, too.

■ **CENTER 3:**

I Hear Something!

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids close their eyes and not open them until you say so. Go around to different parts of the room and clap your hands. Encourage kids to listen and go to where they think the sound is coming from. You also could give kids the opportunity to be the person making the noise. Encourage children to move slowly for safety.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you have to do to listen in this game?**
- **What did Philip have to do to listen in the Bible?**
- **What gets in the way of us listening to God today?**

Say: **That was fun listening in this game! We can be like Philip and listen to God. Let’s remember to always ► LISTEN TO GOD and obey him!**





Center 4: Ear Exercises Supplies

1 plastic Easter egg (or small plastic container) per child
paper clips

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

CENTER 4:

Ear Exercises

What You'll Do

Say: **Philip was a good listener. He was ready to do what God told him to do. Philip didn't just talk to God; he listened to God, too. We're going to exercise our ears so we can learn to listen, too. And we'll make some wonderful sounds at the same time.**

Give kids each a plastic egg or plastic container. Let kids fill the container with paper clips. Have kids form a circle and hold their shakers.

Say: **Everyone give your shaker a good shake.** Let kids make some noise with their shakers.

Say: **Now we're going to go around the circle and listen to each other shake the shaker and say the Bible Point: ► LISTEN TO GOD.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about this game?
- What do you like about listening to God?

Say: **It's fun to listen to God. We may not be used to listening to God, but we can learn to listen carefully like Philip did. You can take your shaker home and use it to tell your parents about what we learned from the Bible today, and how we can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned to ► **LISTEN TO GOD**. Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way you can listen to God this week.

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Draw a picture of God talking to you, and then hang it in your room to remind you that we can listen to God.**
2. **Play a game of Follow the Leader with your friends. When you're finished playing, tell your friends that God wants us to listen to and follow him.**
3. **Ask a family member what his or her favorite thing about God is—and then listen carefully to what he or she says.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 1. If you want to play Follow the Leader, circle choice number 2. If you want to talk to a family member about God, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Listening Prayer

What You'll Do

Ask:

- **What do people do when they pray—talk or listen?**

Say: **God wants us to listen to him when we pray—not just talk. And God will talk to us like he talked to Philip. Let's listen to God now.**

Pray: **God, we want to listen to you. Sometimes that's hard because of all the things going on around us. So we can listen to you right now.** Invite kids to just sit quietly and listen to God. After 15 seconds, pray: **Thank you for helping us listen to you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



