



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask of You
Philip and the Man
from Ethiopia
Acts 8:26-40

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What questions do you have?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you even when
you have questions.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"So we say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.'"
Hebrews 13:6a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Confidence—Living like you
believe God is with you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and
Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PLAY WITH
CONFIDENCE

WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray that you would be able to wrap up the month and the school year well with your kids, as you finish up by looking at Philip and the Ethiopian official. Ask God to give your kids confidence to admit and ask questions when they don't know something, especially when it comes to their relationships with God.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask of You

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Acts 8:26-40

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, invite them to place offerings in the offering container.
- Invite kids to sit in a circle and ask the following riddles.
- Allow time for kids to think about and discuss each one.
- If kids know riddles of their own, let them share!
 - What goes up but never comes down? (*Your age*)
 - I go all around the world but never leave the corner. What am I? (*A postage stamp*)
 - What two things can you never eat for breakfast? (*Lunch and dinner*)
 - I'm as light as a feather, yet even the strongest person can't hold me for 5 minutes. What am I? (*Your breath*)
 - What can you break even if you never pick it up or touch it? (*A promise*)
 - What's really easy to get into and hard to get out of? (*Trouble*)
 - What has a head and a tail but no body? (*A coin*)
 - What has to be broken before you can use it? (*An egg*)
 - What did the triangle say to the circle? (*You are pointless.*)
 - There's only one word in the dictionary that's spelled wrong. What is it? (*Wrong: W-R-O-N-G*)

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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards or small slips of paper, pen or pencil

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play a game of "20 Questions" with your group.
- Choose one kid to go first. Instruct them to think of any specific person, place, or thing.
- Once they have chosen one, tell them to write it down on an index card or small piece of paper.
- Then they should fold it and hand it to you.
- You can look at the paper. But no one else other than you and the kid who wrote it will know what it is.
- Instruct the rest of the group to begin asking a series of "Yes or No" questions.
 - They will be allowed to ask a total of 20 questions in order to try to discover as many clues as possible about what's written on the paper.
 - Be sure to have kids raise their hands and wait to be called on in order to ensure that everyone gets a turn to ask a question.
 - After each kid has asked a question (or 20 questions total have been asked), the group can come together to make a decision on guessing what's written on the card.
- Choose a different volunteer and repeat the game again if there is time.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all did a great job working together to discover what was written on the paper. But you had to ask some good questions in order to figure it out. Being willing to ask questions is so important! **In today's story, we will hear about someone who was not afraid to ask questions. Let's go to Large Group to find out more!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CONFIDENCE

WEEK
FOUR
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PRETEEN

PRELUDE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Question Box" Activity Page, prepared box with removable lid, individually wrapped pieces of candy, timer or cell phone timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you will be reading a question for the group. The question will be about something that speaks into common, everyday things but most likely no one knows the answer to it.
- For example, *Why are barns typically painted red?*
- After you read the question, use your timer to give everyone one minute to think of an answer to the question.
- More than likely, they won't know the actual answer, so they will need to make up a believable answer that they can try to convince others is correct.
- After one minute, give each kid a chance to explain their answer to the group.
- There can't be any duplicate answers. Therefore, if one kid gives an answer first that happens to be what another kid in the group had already thought of and planned to say, they will have to quickly come up with a different answer before it's their turn.
- Once everyone has answered, guide kids to vote on who they believe gave the right answer to the question.
- Ask kids to keep track of how many people voted for their answer.
- Check to see if any of the kids actually gave the correct answer. If so, give that kid a piece of candy out of the box.
- Then award pieces of candy to the kids who gave incorrect answers but were able to convince others that their answer was correct.
- Give them as many pieces as the number of people who voted for their answer.
- Repeat this process until all questions have been asked or as time allows.
- Questions to ask:
 - Why does the skin on your fingers get wrinkly when you've been in the water for a long time? (*Signals from the brain cause tiny blood vessels underneath the skin to constrict, which causes the upper layer of skin to wrinkle.*)
 - Why do we hiccup? (*They are caused by involuntary contractions of the diaphragm, which is a muscle that separates your chest from your abdomen. This muscle plays a major role in breathing, so when it contracts, it causes your vocal cords to briefly close, making the sound of a hiccup.*)
 - Why do seashells sound like the ocean? (*You're not actually hearing the ocean. The shape of a seashell allows them to capture and reflect ambient noise, which amplifies certain frequencies. In other words, it's really just an echo of quieter sounds around you that you're hearing.*)

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(1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT, CONTINUED)

- Why are school buses yellow? (In 1939, there was a conference where transportation officials from all the states agreed on a number of safety standards for school buses. They chose yellow because it is a highly visible color, regardless of the time of day.)
- Why do we wear wedding rings on our fourth finger? (*This dates back to ancient Egypt! Ancient Egyptians believed there was a delicate nerve that ran from that particular finger all the way to the heart. They believed the heart was a human's center of emotions.*)
- After the game ends, make sure that everyone has at least one piece of candy. As kids eat their candy, ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Why is it important to ask questions?
 - How do you find answers to questions you have?
- Remind kids how important it is to find trusted people in our lives that we can ask. Explain that there are many sources we could rely on for answers, but not all of them are credible sources for the right answers.



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Twin Timeline" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose two volunteers.
 - Assign one of the volunteers to be Phillip and the other the Official from Ethiopia.
- Instruct Phillip to stand on one side of your group space while the Official stands at the complete opposite side, allowing at least roughly 25 steps in between each other.
- Choose two more volunteers to be narrators.
 - Hand one narrator the page that says "Phillip's Story."
 - Hand the other narrator the page that says "Official's Story."
- Instruct the narrator with "Phillip's Story" to read #1 on their page.
 - After they read it, ask your Phillip volunteer to take one step toward the center of the group.
- Instruct the narrator with "Official's Story" to read #1 on their page.
 - After they read it, ask your Official volunteer to take one step toward the center of the group.
- Continue alternating between the two stories until eventually the Phillip and the Official meet in the center of the group.
- Use the following
 - How did Phillip respond when he realized the man didn't understand everything he was reading?
 - How did Phillip help the Official?
 - What did the Official do after talking with Phillip?
- Point out how amazing it is that God brought Phillip and the Official together at just the right time. God already knew the questions that may have been stirring within the Official. And God made sure that the Official crossed paths with Phillip.
- Assure kids that even though we can't typically get an audible answer from God when we have a question, we can trust that God welcomes our questions.

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Can you think of a time when God found a way to answer a question you had?
- Who do you talk to when you have questions?
- Is it okay to question things we have always been taught?
- What questions do you have?

(Do not be intimidated by this last question! As their Small Group Leader, you have a unique opportunity to give kids a safe place to ask questions that perhaps they would not feel comfortable asking a parent. Be aware of the potential open door for tricky discussion and be mindful of questions that should be answered with a temporary response of, "Let's figure out a time to discuss that individually." Also, remember this: you are not expected to have ALL the answers! Some things you might not know, and some questions actually don't have definitive answers. It's okay to tell kids exactly that.)

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Common Questions" Activity page, Bibles, pens or pencils, prepared box with lid from the "Take a Snapshot" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into four groups. Pass the box around the group and instruct each group to select a slip of paper from the box.
- Once each group has received a slip of paper, give them a chance to read their question with each other.
- They will then work with their groups to look up each of the verse references listed on their paper and write down what thoughts they have after reading those verses.
- After everyone has had a chance to come up with answers to their questions, give each group a turn to share their question with the others as well as the answer they came up with.
- Explain that in this case, they were given specific verses to look up in order to find some info on a specific question. But when we have our own questions, we typically have to find the answers on our own.
 - Take time to show kids how to use a concordance in a Bible or how to search for something in a Bible app or on a Bible website.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Can we find every single answer in the Bible?
 - How can we find answers that are not in the Bible?
 - Is the internet always a trusted source for answers?
 - Who in your life is a trusted source to ask your questions?
- Be sure to explain that not every question can be answered with the Bible. And not every question can be answered at all! There are some questions that we will never know the answers to in this life because only God knows! That's what makes God omniscient or all knowing. But what we can do is keep asking questions and discussing who God is and how to follow Jesus.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wireless Controls" Activity Page,
pens or pencils, *Optional: A wireless Xbox controller*

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you brought a wireless Xbox® controller, hold it up for kids to see. If you do not have one to show kids, hold up a copy of the "Wireless Controls" Activity Page.
- Ask kids these questions and call on volunteers to answer:
 - Does anyone know what this is? (*Wireless Xbox controller*)
 - How do you use it in order to play a video game? (*Everything you want to happen on the screen, you can control by pushing the buttons on the controller.*)
 - What makes this type of controller so special? How is it different from other kinds of controllers? (*This particular controller is wireless. It operates with either infrared or Bluetooth technology, which allows it to work without having to be plugged into the source.*)
- Explain how it's pretty awesome that a piece of equipment can be connected to what's going on in the game without even having to be plugged in. It can be easy to forget to stay connected with God. We can tend to pull back or unplug when we get busy or distracted.
- Remind kids that God is ALWAYS plugged into our lives and is always available and ready for any questions we may have.
- Give kids a chance to think of specific questions they have for God.
- Instruct them to write these things down on their "Wireless Controls" Activity Page.
- Pair kids up and give them time and space to pray for each other. They can either pray about the questions they wrote down, or they can share other prayer requests with each other.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards or small slips of paper, three to five pieces for each Small Group
- Pen or pencil, one for each Small Group

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Question Box" Activity page printed on yellow paper, one for each Small Group
- Glue or tape
- Box with removable lid (such as a shoebox), one for each group
 - To prepare the box, cut out the question mark image from the "Question Box" Activity Page and glue or tape it to top of the lid of the box.
- Individually wrapped pieces of candy, one bag for each Small Group

- Timer or cell phone timer

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Twin Timeline" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Common Questions" Activity Page, one set for each Small Group
 - To prepare, cut on the perforated lines and fold each piece in half.
 - Place all pieces inside the box from "Take a Snapshot" Activity and place the lid on top.
- Bibles, four for each Small Group
- Pens or pencils, four for each Small Group

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Wireless Controls" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Pens or pencils
- *Optional:* A wireless Xbox controller



PLAY WITH
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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

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HOME

GETTING READY

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HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**