Younger Preschool May 10

Bible Teaching: Philip and the Ethiopian

Bible Passage: Acts 8:26–40

Summary
An angel instructed Philip to travel a desert road where he encountered an Ethiopian official reading the book of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit guided Philip to approach the man, who invited him to explain the Scripture. After hearing about Jesus, the official believed and asked to be baptized. Philip baptized him, and as they emerged from the water, the Spirit took Philip away. The Ethiopian man continued his journey while rejoicing. God's plan of salvation was for all nations, not just the Jews.

Today's Brite Idea is: God seeks us out.

Monthly Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)
Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory.

Monthly Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Grandpals

Partner with the senior adult ministry at your church to assign a “grandpal” to families with young children. This will help preschoolers and families feel more connected to the older generation. This is particularly special for kids and families who may not have any grandparents nearby.

- **Grandpals party.** Invite parents and grandpals to an after-class party (it can be brief) and introduce grandpals to their assigned families. Invite them to share contact information and encourage them to sit together in church once a month.
- **Grandpals pray.** Invite grandpals to pray for their family and check in with them monthly about prayer requests.

Navigating a Broken World: Discouragement

A case study discovered that 12 percent of people have a fear of receiving feedback.* Sometimes hearing the hard thing hurts! Kids experience this too. Kids can have strong reactions when they’re told they aren’t doing something right. Sometimes the Bible can seem like a list of things they are doing wrong. This can not only be discouraging but also overwhelming, with the feeling that there’s so much to learn. Help simplify God’s Word into easy-to-understand preschool language. Use the preschool glossary to help explain words that kids may never have heard before. Share how much God loves us and seeks out a relationship with us—it isn’t about a list of do’s and do not’s. When kids seem discouraged or disinterested, point them toward how awesome Jesus is.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Preschool Glossary:

Chariot: a carriage pulled by horses
Ethiopian: a person from Ethiopia
Prophecy: a message from God about what would happen in the future
Seek: to look for

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Hello!
Supplies: None

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26–40)
Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Freeze Dance
Supplies: Memory Verse Song, music player

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Good News Scroll
Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, tan construction paper (1 per 2 kids), large craft sticks (2 per kid), glue, marker, stickers, string, scissors (prep)

Hello!

Belong Activity

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. *Invite kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's sing a special hello song just for you! When it's your turn, we'll sing your name. Then I'll ask you a fun question so we can get to know you!
3. *Sing the following lyrics to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Go around the circle, singing to each kid using their name.*

   Hello [name], we're so glad you're here today! *(clap, clap)*
   Hello [name], we're so glad you're here today! *(clap, clap)*
   God made you with so much love.
   You're a gift from up above.
   Hello [name], we're so glad you're here today! *(clap, clap)*
4. *After singing to each kid, ask them a simple personal question:*
   - What's your favorite color?
   - What's your favorite food?
   - Do you have a pet?
   - What do you love to play with?
5. *Continue around the circle until everyone has been welcomed.*

Activity Wrap-Up: Each of you is so special, and we are so glad you're here! God made each of you with your very own name, your own favorite things and your own special heart.

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bibles, Bible story cards, video player

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

Philip and the Ethiopian
(Acts 8:26–40)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Acts. Philip was one of the apostles. An angel told Philip to travel on a road. There, Philip met an **Ethiopian** man who was sitting in a **chariot** by the road. Wave hello!

Say: The man was reading God's Word! He didn't understand it. Point to your head. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the **chariot** and speak to the man. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Say: The **Ethiopian** man said he needed help. He needed someone to explain it to him. Philip could do that! Philip went into the **chariot.** The **Ethiopian** man was reading a promise about Jesus.

Say: Philip shared the good news about Jesus. Give a big thumbs-up. Jesus was the promised Rescuer who came to save us from our sins. The **Ethiopian** man chose to believe in Jesus! Say, "Yay!" They passed by some water, and the man asked to be baptized. Philip baptized him, and the man was filled with great joy!

Say: When Jesus went to the cross, He died for everyone. The good news is for every single person, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus came to save everyone from their sins. He wants everyone to know about Him!

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- Yours is the *(point up to the sky)*
- greatness and the *(extend arms out)*
- power and the *(flex your muscles)*
- glory. *(close hands and burst them open while extending arms out)*
- 1 Chronicles 29:11 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: God seeks everyone out.
We: God seeks us out.
Me: God seeks me out.

Freeze Dance

Believe Activity

Supplies: Memory Verse Song, music player

Prep: None

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Our memory verse tells us about God's greatness, power and glory.

Instructions

1. **Say:** Let's play Freeze Dance! When I play the Memory Verse Song, dance around our space. When I stop the music, you have to freeze your body.
2. *Play the Memory Verse Song and dance along with kids.*
3. *Pause the music every 10 to 15 seconds. Remind kids to freeze when the music stops.*
4. **Say:** Dancing is fun, and learning God's Word is fun too! When we move and listen, we remember.
5. *Repeat several times as time allows.*
6. *Optional: Call out silly freeze poses: "Freeze like a tree" or "Freeze with a silly face," etc.*

Activity Wrap-Up: Good job moving your body to the music! When we listen to God's Word in a song, it helps us remember it!

Good News Scroll

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, tan construction paper (1 per 2 kids), large craft sticks (2 per kid), glue, marker, stickers, string, scissors (prep)

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the construction paper in half lengthwise. Glue one craft stick to each short side of the paper. Write “God’s Word” in the middle of the paper. Cut string into 6-inch pieces (1 per kid).

Instructions:

1. *Give each kid a scroll.*
2. **Say:** The Ethiopian man was reading God’s Word from a scroll like this!
3. **Say:** God helps us understand the Bible, just like He helped the Ethiopian man by sending Philip to tell the man about Jesus.
4. *Let kids decorate their scrolls with drawings, scribbles or stickers.*
5. *Roll both ends of the paper toward the center and tie with a string to create a scroll.*
6. *Write each kid’s name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

Discussion Questions:

- Who spoke to the man in the chariot?
- Who helped him understand the Bible?
- Do you like to read stories about Jesus?
- Is God in control of everything?

Pray Together: Dear God, thank You for the Bible and for loving us so much. Help us share the good news about Jesus with others. Amen

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Music Center:** Provide instruments for kids and encourage them to play and sing the song they learned today.
- **Movement Activity:** Tape a “road” on the floor using painter’s tape. Have kids walk, march or tiptoe on the tape path.
- **Creation Station:** Provide boxes of different shapes and encourage kids to build their own chariots.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: An angel told Philip to travel on a road. There, Philip met an Ethiopian official reading the book of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit led Philip to go see the man, who invited him to share more about the Scripture. After hearing about Jesus, the official believed and asked to be baptized. Philip baptized him, and the man was filled with great joy. He praised God’s plan for saving everyone.

Is God in control of everything? Yes!