

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

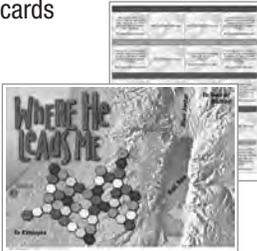


► **Bible Point**
Follow where God leads.

Key Verse
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will seek God’s guidance to follow where God leads.

Middle-elementary kids may often feel bombarded with advice and instructions. They’re told what to do at school, at home, in sports, and by the media. Throw into the mix the peer pressure that’s beginning to blossom at this age, and kids may not know who to listen to. Use Philip’s example in today’s lesson to emphasize that God, through his Holy Spirit, is standing by to guide them through every situation.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Listen and Obey <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of following directions.	paper, scissors, copies of the “Listen” handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut apart the segments from the “Listen” handout. You’ll need 1 segment per child.
2 Bible Exploration	Philip and the Ethiopian <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read Acts 8:26-40, and play a game.	Bible, 2 different coins Teacher Pack: “Where He Leads Me” game board and game cards 	Set out the game board and the 2 coins. Separate the “Where He Leads Me” game cards, and stack them facedown numerically with “20” at the bottom of the stack and “1” at the top.
	Verse Pictures <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Sing the Key Verse, and draw pictures of portions of it.	Bibles, CD player, markers, paper, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Air Art <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Blow paint around on a paper using a straw.	washable tempera paints, construction paper, 1 straw per child	
	Ways God Leads <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore ways God leads people.	pens, Bible Truth Sleuth, crafts from the "Air Art" activity	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Listen and Obey Supplies

paper
scissors
copies of the “Listen”
handout (at the end of
this lesson)

Listen and Obey Easy Prep

Cut apart the segments
from the “Listen”
handout. You’ll need 1
segment per child.

1 GETTING STARTED

Listen and Obey

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, gather kids to explain the opening game.

During this game, kids will walk around the room whispering. All but one child will whisper the word *listen*, while that one child will whisper a different command that the other kids must obey. Give kids each a segment of the “Listen” handout which will tell them what they’ll be whispering.

Say: I have given everyone here a slip of paper. One of you has a command written on your slip of paper that everyone else is supposed to obey. You’ll walk around the room whispering the command that’s written on your paper to different people.

The “listeners” need to not only whisper but also listen for this command as they walk around. As soon as you hear what you think is a command, do that thing, but don’t tell anyone where you heard it.

Is everyone ready? Go!

Allow kids to play for five minutes or until everyone has received a command and obeyed it. Be sure kids actually whisper as they walk around.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was your strategy going into this game?**
- **Was it difficult at times to respond to the command you heard? Explain.**
- **How is this like trying to listen to and understand what God wants us to do?**

Say: God communicates with us in many ways. God can speak to us in a still, small voice inside us, and he can speak through our parents and other adults, for example. When God speaks, it’s important that we quickly ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS. In our Bible passage today, we’ll learn about a man who heard what God wanted him to do and obeyed right away.

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Philip and the Ethiopian

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's play a game about responding to God's leading. Your team will draw a card, possibly read a verse, and then move according to the instructions on the card.**

Have kids form two teams, Team A and Team B. Give each team a coin as a pawn. Choose a number between 1 and 10, and have the teams try to guess the number. The team that guesses closest to that number will play first.

Have a player from the first team draw a "Where He Leads Me" card. Team members will take turns reading a passage of Scripture if the card has one and moving their team's playing piece on the game board as indicated on the card. Keep going until you've gone through all 20 cards, which will complete the Scripture passage.

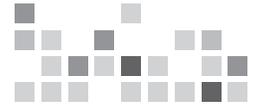
Talk With Kids

After the game has concluded with one of the teams reaching the end and the other team back at "start," lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was playing this game like responding to God's leading as opposed to the world's leading?**
- **Describe the differences between where the two teams ended up on the board.**
- **How is that like what happens when we listen to the world's leading versus God's leading?**
- **What are some things that could happen if you *did* respond immediately to God's leading?**
- **What are some things that could happen if you *didn't* respond immediately to God's leading?**

Say: **Philip is a great example to us of a person who immediately obeyed God. And look at the wonderful things that happened! He led the Ethiopian to Jesus and baptized him. The Ethiopian obeyed God immediately, too. When he realized God wanted him to be baptized, he did it right then and there! Philip and the Ethiopian are examples of how we must immediately ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**



Philip and the Ethiopian Supplies

-
- Bible
 - 2 different coins
 - Teacher Pack**
 - "Where He Leads Me" game board and game cards

Philip and the Ethiopian Easy Prep

Set out the game board and the 2 coins. Separate the "Where He Leads Me" game cards, and stack them facedown numerically with "20" at the bottom of the stack and "1" at the top.



Verse Pictures Supplies

Bibles
CD player
markers
paper
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"
(Proverbs 3:5-6) (track
12)

Verse Pictures

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse this week is Proverbs 3:5-6.** Make sure kids have Bibles, and help them find the verse. Ask them to read it aloud with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

Have kids form groups of four. Set out markers, and give each child a piece of paper. Assign each part to a different person in the foursome. Each child can write the following portion of the Key Verse on the top of his or her paper:

Child 1—Trust in the Lord with all your heart

Child 2—and lean not on your own understanding;

Child 3—in all your ways acknowledge him,

Child 4—and he will make your paths straight.

When everyone has finished writing, encourage kids to add appropriate illustrations. These illustrations may show what the portion of the verse means or may illustrate how that portion of Scripture would be helpful in a situation kids can relate to.

Say: **Now let's sing a song about our Key Verse.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 17 on the CD). Play the song once, and then encourage each child to hold up his or her paper when the appropriate words come up in the song.



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*)

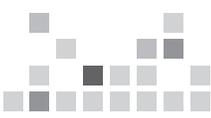
With all your heart (*with all your heart*).

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.**

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does this verse mean when it says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”?**
- **What does “lean not on your own understanding” mean?**
- **What does “in all your ways acknowledge him” mean?**
- **How do you think God can make your paths straight?**

Say: **This verse promises us that as we trust in the Lord and his wisdom and guidance, he will bless us and make our paths straight. When God speaks to us and leads us, whether it’s through our parents or his voice, we must respond to his leading with obedience and do what he says—just like Philip did with the Ethiopian! Let’s ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Air Art

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Once again, have kids repeat the Key Verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with you: **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

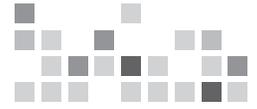
Distribute construction paper and a straw to each person. Then let kids pick colors and carefully pour small amounts of each color of paint onto their papers. When everyone has paint, encourage kids to blow gently through their straws to make straight lines with the paint. After this, allow children to use their straws to gently blow the paint around on the paper to create unique designs. Have them leave the top of the paper blank (for adding words later). Have kids show their pictures to one another, being careful not to tilt them while the paint is wet.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

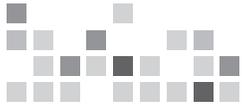
- **What did you design with your air art?**



**Air Art
Supplies**

- washable tempera paints
- construction paper
- 1 straw per child





Ways God Leads Supplies

pens
Bible Truth Sleuth
crafts from the “Air Art”
activity

Ways God Leads Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

- How well did the paint follow your leading?
- How was this similar to how we sometimes follow God’s leading?
- How can you let God lead you in the right direction?

Say: **We need God’s wisdom to know what is right to do, and we need his power to do the right thing in any and all situations. We need his guidance. But when he speaks, however he chooses to speak, we must ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS right away. Philip did that, and it led to a life change for the Ethiopian. Let’s look at some ways God speaks to us and leads us.**

Ways God Leads

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

In this activity, kids will select from a list ways they feel God has led them in the past. Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids form pairs to work on the “Ways God Leads” activity. After they’ve finished, discuss with the entire group ways God leads us. Then have kids share how they or someone they know has been led by God in one of the ways listed on the Bible Truth Sleuth page.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you determine whether a message comes from God or a false source?
- Can you think of any ways God has spoken to you that weren’t on your Bible Truth Sleuth page? Talk about that.
- Where do you feel God leading you right now in your life? What can you do to act on that?

Say: **We might end up going to unexpected places, but if we ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS, he promises to take care of us. So if you feel God leading you somewhere (like Philip with the Ethiopian), I encourage you to follow him. Let’s commit to following God’s lead this week.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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

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

- **Think about a situation where you know you can follow God better, and then pray and ask God to guide you in that situation.**
- **Read your Bible to find God's guidance. Some good places to start are the book of Proverbs and the "Word for the Week" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page.**
- **Talk to a trusted Christian about God's guidance. Ask how he or she has been guided before and how you can begin to follow God in your own life.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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 kids 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.**

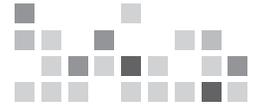
Say: **God led Philip to talk to the Ethiopian, and he's leading us, too. If we ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS us, we'll be aligned with his heart. So let's follow God this week by completing our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

As a closing prayer, have kids take their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and silently pray about the area they drew earlier in which they need God's leading.

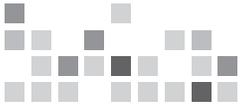


Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Lyrics ■■■■

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

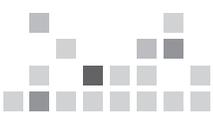
Trust in the Lord (*trust in the Lord*)
With all your heart (*with all your heart*).
Lean not on your own understanding (*understanding*).
In all your ways (*in all your ways*),
Acknowledge him (*acknowledge him*);
He will make your paths straight.
Once you begin that way,
Don't you ever, ever stray;
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.

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





Listen

Listen	Listen
Listen	Go stand in the corner.

OK
TO COPY

