



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

Children understand that prayer is talking to God. They trust that God is there and can hear them when they pray, but they may not understand that God wants to speak to them and that they can listen to God. Use this lesson to help them understand that God speaks to them in many ways and that, if they listen, they will hear God.



### ► 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

Children will listen to God.

| LESSON   | WHAT CHILDREN DO  | SUPPLIES  | EASY PREP  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Getting Started<br><i>about 5 min.</i>     | <b>Welcome and Celebrate</b><br>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.                                 | CD player<br><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD  |  |
| <b>2</b><br>Key Verse Activity<br><i>about 10 min.</i> | <b>How God Teaches Us</b><br>Guide each other around the room.  | Bible   |  |
| <b>3</b><br>Bible Exploration<br><i>about 15 min.</i>  | <b>Puppy Pointers</b><br>Hear about Theo’s grandma.   | CD player, Theo puppet, tape, picture of a dog<br><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD   | Tape the dog picture to Theo’s paw.  |
|  | <b>Bible Time: Philip Tells All</b><br>Use figures and props to tell what happened with Philip and the Ethiopian. | Bible, CD player, masking tape, pan of sand, pan of water, 3 toy people, rectangular block<br><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD | Use the masking tape to make the shape of a chariot on the floor, big enough for all children to sit inside. |

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

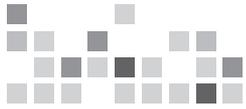


| LESSON  | WHAT CHILDREN DO   | SUPPLIES   | EASY PREP  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b><br/><i>about 20 min.</i><br/><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p> | <p><b>Center 1: Philip and the Ethiopian</b><br/>Create three scenes to show what happened.</p>        | My Bible Hugs, scissors, glue, blue tissue paper, one 1x3-inch sandpaper strip and one 1x3-inch white paper strip per child  | Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut off the 3-panel strip on the side of each page.                                       |
|   | <p><b>Center 2: Listening Ears Snacks</b><br/>Make faces with big listening ears.</p>                  | rice cakes, 2 apple slices per child, plates, antibacterial gel (optional)   |  |
|   | <p><b>Center 3: Ears to Hear</b><br/>Listen to sounds, and act them out.</p>                           | CD player<br><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD   |  |
|   | <p><b>Center 4: Chariots</b><br/>Make model chariots.</p>  | 1 large foam cup per 2 children, 4 craft sticks per child, glue sticks, scissors, markers, crayons, copies of the "Chariot Wheels" handout (at the end of this lesson) on card stock | Cut foam cups in half. Make 2 small slits side by side in the top curved part of each cup and 2 small slits side by side in the bottom flat part of each cup. Cut out 2 wheels for each child. |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b><br/><i>about 10 min.</i></p>                                    | <p><b>Daily Challenges</b><br/>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>                       | My Bible Hugs  |  |
|   | <p><b>Action Prayer</b><br/>Pass around a Bible, and say a prayer together.</p>                        | Bible  |  |
|   | <p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b><br/>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p> |  |  |

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







## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome, Friends!" (track 16), "I Need Jesus" (track 12)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate

**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

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Welcome, Friends!" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

**♪ Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!** (*make the "come over" motion twice*)  
**To God's house, to God's house.** (*put hands together above head to make a house*)  
**We will learn from God above** (*point up*)  
**How Jesus came to share his love.** (*hug self*)  
**Join the fun! Join the fun!** (*jump up and down*)  
*(Repeat.)*

Say: **Welcome, friends! Today we'll learn that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD and Jesus. They know what's best for us. Let's sing a song about Jesus.**

Lead children in singing "I Need Jesus" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

**♪ I need Jesus in my life,** (*point to heaven and then to self*)  
**In my life, in my life.** (*point to self*)  
**I need Jesus in my life.** (*point to heaven and then to self*)  
**He wants to be my friend.** (*put arm around a friend*)

**Jesus, please erase my sins,** (*pretend to scrub your heart*)  
**Erase my sins, erase my sins.** (*continue scrubbing motion*)  
**Jesus, please erase my sins,**  
**And make my heart brand-new.** (*hold out hands as if presenting a gift*)

**Heaven is my gift from God,** (*point up*)  
**Gift from God, gift from God.** (*hold out hands as if presenting a gift*)  
**Heaven is my gift from God** (*hold out hands as if presenting a gift*)  
**'Cause he loves me every day!** (*give yourself a big hug*)





Say: Today we'll hear about a friend of Jesus named Philip. This friend knew he needed to ► LISTEN TO GOD. And when God told him to talk to an Ethiopian man, he did. We'll learn from Philip that listening to God is one of the best things we can ever do.

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## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# How God Teaches Us

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible 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). This means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Say: **Let's listen to each other to help us learn what it means to listen to the Holy Spirit.**

Group the children into pairs, and have the pairs line up at one end of the room. Have one partner in each pair close his or her eyes. Then have the sighted partner gently hold the arm of the non-seeing partner. When you say "go," have the sighted partner slowly lead the other child around tables and chairs and across the room. Have the partners switch roles and play the game again.

Say: **Just as you trusted your friend to lead you around the room even though you couldn't see him or her, we can listen to God and trust him even though we can't see him like we see people in the room. The Holy Spirit teaches us by leading us as we listen to him.**

**Let's say our Key Verse once more.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be led by your partner?
- What are some ways you know God can lead you?
- What will you do to listen to the Holy Spirit this week?

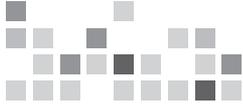


### How God Teaches Us Supplies

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Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
tape  
picture of a dog  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 5)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the dog picture to  
Theo's paw.

Say: **The Bible tells us to ► LISTEN TO GOD and trust him. And God gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us. When we believe in Jesus, we know that God and the Holy Spirit will never lead us in the wrong direction. Let's do our best to listen to God this week.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today.

**Theo:** I'm so happy to see all of you boys and girls!

**Teacher:** We're happy to see you, too! It looks like you have a picture with you.

**Theo:** This is my grandma.

**Teacher:** That's great! What do you like most about your grandma?

**Theo:** She is so smart and gives the best advice. I always make sure to listen to her.

**Teacher:** That's great, Theo! We're learning about listening today, too. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► LISTEN TO GOD.)*

**Theo:** Wow! I bet you get even better advice from God than I do from my grandma.

**Teacher:** Yes, we do! And today we're going to read about a man named Philip who listened to God.

**Theo:** That sounds great! I hope you have a good time. I'm going to go call my grandma.

**Teacher:** Okay! Have a good day. Boys and girls, 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.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Theo listens to his grandma. Tell about a person you listen to.**
- **Why is it good to listen to people who know more than we do?**
- **Why do you want to listen to God?**

Say: **Today we'll hear about a man who listened to God and great things happened. When we ► LISTEN TO GOD, we know he gives us the very best advice. When God tells us things, we want to listen to every word and follow him. Let's hear what happened with the man who listened to God.**





## Bible Time: Philip Tells All

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 8:26-40, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **During Bible times, some people rode in chariots. Chariots were carts that were pulled by horses. One man we'll read about in the Bible today rode in a chariot, so let's pretend to ride in one, too.** Lead the children to sit inside the masking-tape chariot.

Show the pan of sand. Say: **We'll use this to show the desert in what we read today.** Let each child run his or her finger through the sand.

Show the three toy people. Hold each one up individually and introduce them as the angel, the Ethiopian, and Philip. Let the children pass the toy figures around.

Show the rectangular block. Say: **We'll pretend this is the chariot.** Let the children pass around the "chariot."

Choose children to take turns moving the figures as you direct them. Switch the children frequently so they have to listen carefully throughout the passage. Say: **I need your help to tell what happened, and just as we're learning to ► LISTEN TO GOD, you'll have to listen carefully to me so you know what to do when I choose you to help me.**

Say: **One day an angel of God** (have the child holding the angel hold it up) **said to a man named Philip** (have the child holding the angel move it to the Philip toy), **"Go on the road to Gaza."** (Have the child holding Philip pretend to make him walk.)

Say: **So Philip headed down the desert road.** (Let a different child move Philip to the pan of sand.) **Along the way he met an Ethiopian man.** (Have a child hold up the "Ethiopian.") **The Ethiopian was riding in a chariot.** (Have the children move the Ethiopian and the "chariot" to the pan of sand.) **The Ethiopian was a very important man. He took care of all of the queen's money. The Ethiopian was on his way home from worshipping God and was reading God's Word.** (Have a child drive the chariot slowly through the sand.)

Say: **The angel told Philip** (have a child move the angel to the pan of sand where Philip is) **to go over to the chariot.** (Have a child move Philip near the chariot.) **When Philip got near the chariot, he could hear the man reading God's words. Philip asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said he didn't. So Philip told the Ethiopian all about Jesus.**

Have the kids turn and tell a neighbor something they know about Jesus.

Say: **As they traveled down the road, they came to some water.** (Have a few children move the Ethiopian, Philip, and the chariot to the pan of water.) **The Ethiopian asked Philip if he could be baptized. The Ethiopian loved Jesus with all his heart and wanted to obey him. So Philip baptized the Ethiopian that very day.** (Let several kids take a turn dipping the Ethiopian in the water.)

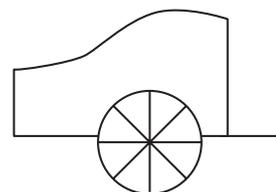


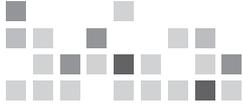
### Bible Time: Philip Tells All Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- masking tape
- pan of sand
- pan of water
- 3 toy people
- rectangular block
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "We Can Listen to God" (track 21)

### Bible Time: Philip Tells All Easy Prep

Use the masking tape to make the shape of a chariot on the floor, big enough for all children to sit inside.





### Center 1: Philip and the Ethiopian Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
scissors  
glue  
blue tissue paper  
one 1x3-inch sandpaper  
strip and one 1x3-inch  
white paper strip per  
child

### Center 1: Philip and the Ethiopian Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
10 pages from each  
My Bible Hugs student  
book, and write  
children's names  
on them. Cut off the  
3-panel strip on the  
side of each page.

Say: **When Philip and the Ethiopian came out of the water, Philip went where God told him to go, and the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing. He was so happy! Philip listened to God by obeying the angel. The Ethiopian listened to God by reading God's Word and being baptized. We can ► LISTEN TO GOD just as Philip and the Ethiopian did. Let's tell God now that we'll listen to him.**

Lead the children in singing "We Can Listen to God" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." As they sing, have them hold hands and walk along the edge of the masking tape chariot.

 **We can listen to God every day.  
We can listen to God every day.  
We can listen to God and obey his holy Word.  
We can listen to God every day.  
(Repeat.)**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to listen carefully in this activity?**
- **How is that like or unlike how you listen to God?**

Say: **When we love God with all our heart, we want to listen to his words, just as the Ethiopian listened to Philip and to God. We know that when we ► LISTEN TO GOD, he does really great things. Let's listen carefully to God this week.**

## 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.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## Philip and the Ethiopian

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 10 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're learning to ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's make some picture scenes to remind us of how Philip and the Ethiopian listened to God.**





Give each child a strip of sandpaper to glue onto the road in the left panel. Read aloud the text, and let kids tell about times they listened to God.

Show the children how to roll a strip of white paper so it looks like a scroll and glue the scroll onto the middle panel so it looks like it's in the Ethiopian's hands. Read aloud the text, and let kids tell about times they learned more about God.

Have kids tear the blue tissue paper and glue it onto the right panel so it looks like water. Read aloud the text, and let kids tell why they believe in Jesus.

Show the children how to fold the page accordion-style so the panel on the right is behind the middle panel and the middle panel is behind the panel on the left.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Just like Philip listened to God and told the Ethiopian all about Jesus, we can tell others about Jesus. One thing God wants all of us to do is to tell others about him. This week, let's ► LISTEN TO GOD and obey him by telling someone about Jesus. We can even use the scenes we just made to tell people about how Philip listened to God.**

## ■ CENTER 2:

# Listening Ears Snacks

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Just like God wanted Philip and the Ethiopian to listen to him, God wants us to listen to him.**

Give each child a rice cake. Say: **Pretend this is your face. What part of the body do you need to listen to God?** Allow time, and then give kids the apple slices to place beside the rice cakes as ears.

Say: **We can listen with our ears, but we can also listen to God in other ways. We can listen to God with our hearts.** Have kids move their apple slices to create heart shapes on top of the rice cakes.

Say: **We can hear from God when we read the Bible, too.** Have kids place the apple slices on top of each other, and flip one over, as if opening a book.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion as they enjoy their snacks.

Ask:

- What do you like about listening to God?
- Why do you know that God will always tell you the best thing to do?

Say: **When the angel told Philip to go to Gaza, Philip didn't know why, but he listened to God. God speaks to us a lot of ways, too, and when we ► LISTEN TO**

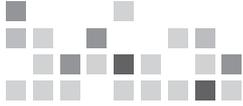


### Center 2: Listening Ears Snacks Supplies

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- rice cakes
  - 2 apple slices per child
  - plates
  - antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**





### Center 3: Ears to Hear Supplies

CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Action Sounds"  
 (track 22)

### Center 4: Chariots Supplies

1 large foam cup per 2 children  
 4 craft sticks per child  
 glue sticks  
 scissors  
 markers  
 crayons  
 copies of the "Chariot Wheels" handout (at the end of this lesson)  
 on card stock

### Center 4: Chariots Easy Prep

Cut foam cups in half. Make 2 small slits side by side in the top curved part of each cup and 2 small slits side by side in the bottom flat part of each cup. Cut out 2 wheels for each child.

**GOD**, we won't always know at first why he tells us something. But we can trust that God will always tell us the best thing to do.

#### CENTER 3:

## Ears to Hear

### What You'll Do

Say: **Today we learned about two men who listened to God. Let's play a listening game. We're going to listen to a sound on the CD, tell what it is, and act it out. It will help us realize that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Play "Action Sounds" (track 22 on the CD), and let the children act out the sounds they hear. The CD provides a 10-second pause between each sound.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to listen to and follow the sounds on the CD?
- Why does listening to the CD help you be a good listener?
- What can you do to be a good listener when it comes to God?

Say: **Philip knew the angel came from God. And when we practice listening, it helps us ► LISTEN TO GOD and do what he says. Let's do our best to listen to God and obey him this week every time we have a chance.**

#### CENTER 4:

## Chariots

### What You'll Do

Say: **Philip listened to the angel and went to Gaza. As he walked through the desert, he met an Ethiopian man in a chariot. Let's make chariot crafts to remind us to ► LISTEN TO GOD like Philip and the Ethiopian did.**

Give each child half of a foam cup. Let kids decorate their cups with crayons. Show children how to glue the wheels to the sides of their cups. Then give each child four craft sticks, and encourage kids to use the markers to draw faces and clothes on two of the sticks so they look like Philip and the Ethiopian. Show kids how to carefully slide the craft sticks into the holes on top. Then show children how to slide the remaining two craft sticks into the end holes to make the bars that the horses would be hooked to.

Encourage children to use the craft to act out what happened when Philip listened to and obeyed God.



**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Think about how Philip and the Ethiopian listened to and obeyed God. What did they do that seems the hardest to you?
- Tell about a time it was hard to do the right thing.
- Why do you want to listen to and obey God, even when it's not easy?

Say: God asked Philip and the Ethiopian to do some pretty big things, but they still listened to him. We can ► LISTEN TO GOD and obey him, too, even when it's not the easiest choice to make.

**5** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a 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.

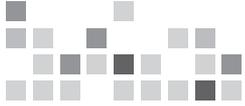
**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to listen to God this week.

**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs





### Action Prayer Supplies

Bible

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Listen to a song about God, and tell your parents why you want to listen to and obey God.**
- ■ **Practice listening and obeying God by doing what your parents ask.**

Say: **If you want to listen to a song, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to obey your parents, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. 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!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

As you pray, pass a Bible around the circle. Repeat the prayer until each child has had a chance to hold God's Word, the Bible. Remind children that God speaks through the Bible. Suggest that they ask their parents to read to them during the week.

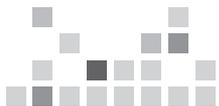
Pray: **Thank you, God, for your Word  
And the many things you say.  
Help us trust you and your Word  
And listen to you each day.  
In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

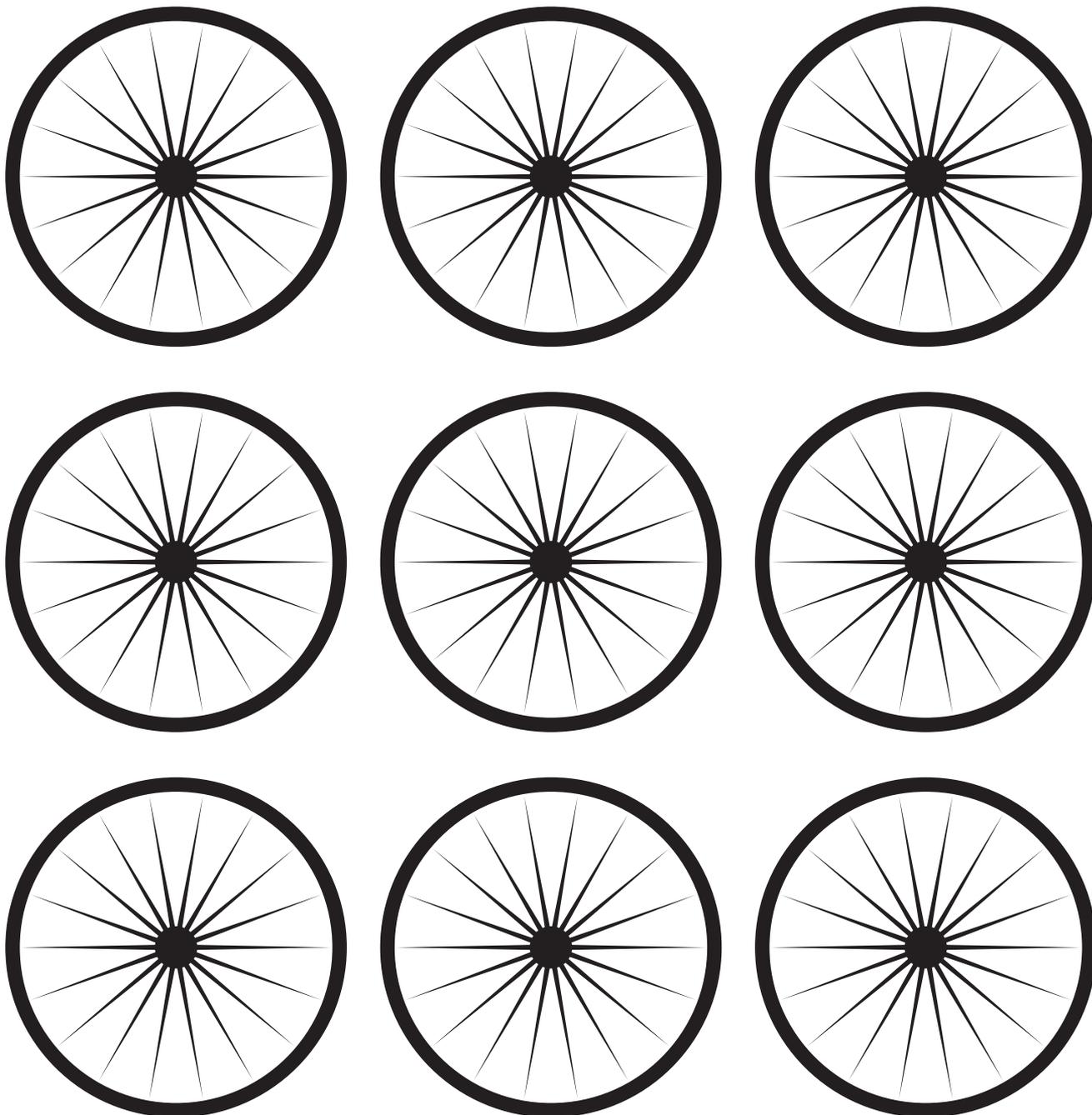
Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing 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](http://group.com/digital).





# Chariot Wheels



**OK  
TO COPY**



