

WEEK 2 BIBLE LESSON



Need to Know: *Read God's Word*

Bible Story: *Philip Teaches an Ethiopian Man (Acts 8:26-40)*

Supplies: *Attached Bible Story Cards (printed)*

1. READ the **Bible Story Cards** aloud to the group. After the story, SAY: *Reading God's Word changed this man's life in the best way, and it can change our lives! It will show us who God is and what He wants us to do, so:*
 - *First, what does this story tell us about who God is? Did it show us that God is weak or powerful (Powerful) Yes, we saw God's power at work in the lives of the official and Philip!*
 - *Second, when we think about this story, what does it say that God wants us to do? Does He want us to read His Word? (Yes) God wants us to read the Bible and ask questions when we don't understand, just like the man in the story did. And when we believe the good news about what Jesus did for us, then God wants us to get baptized to show others we will follow Jesus!*
2. SAY: *Reading God's Word shows us many things about God, like how powerful He is and how much He loves us. That's why we should read His Word every day!*



Philip Teaches an Ethiopian Man

Acts 8:26-40

There's a story we can read in the Bible about a man named Philip. He loved God and loved telling other people the good news about Jesus! One day, an angel appeared to Philip and told him to get ready to go to the road that led from Jerusalem through the desert to Gaza.



On the road, Philip saw an important Ethiopian official who was the treasurer for a queen. The man had gone to Jerusalem to worship but was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot reading something that one of God's messengers, named Isaiah, had written down long ago. We can read these same words in our Bibles. But back then, they didn't have Bibles like we have today, so the Ethiopian man was reading from a scroll.



God told Philip to go the the chariot and stay near it, so he did! He could hear the man reading from Isaiah and asked him if he understood what he was reading. The official told Philip that he didn't understand and needed someone to explain it to him. Philip was happy to help, so he jumped in the chariot and began to tell the man the good news about Jesus.



As they traveled down the road, they came to some water. The official must have believed that what he read was true and that God loved him, because he asked Philip if he could be baptized!

When people decide to follow Jesus, they get baptized in water, just like Jesus did! It shows everyone that they want to follow Jesus! When they go under the water, it shows that they believe Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins, and when they come out of the water, it shows they believe God brought Jesus back to life.

When the Ethiopian official heard the good news about Jesus, he stopped the chariot, and both of the men went down into the water so Philip could baptize him! That's when something pretty crazy happened! As soon as the Ethiopian official came up out of the water, God's Spirit took Philip away to another town! It was amazing!

When we read stories like this from God's Word, it helps us see just how powerful God is and helps us grow in our friendship with Him!