

Bible Story: Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

Bottom Line: Keep following God, even when you have questions.

Conversation Starter: What questions do you have about God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Plastic cups

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle in the activity area, and you sit on the floor in the middle of the circle.
- Tell the kids you're going to play a fun stacking game, but you, the leader, are the base!
- You may also have a child be the base. If the group is fairly large, break up into multiple groups.
- Give the kids a stack of plastic cups.
- Challenge them: "How many cups can you stack on me without them falling off?"
- Let them get creative and stack cups on your head, your outstretched arms and hands, and your legs.
- If the cups fall, laugh together, pick them up, and encourage the kids to keep going and try again. Keep count of how many cups they're able to stack on you.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job! It was hard to balance the cups and keep them from falling, but you didn't give up! That's called perseverance. Today in our Bible Story, we're going to meet someone who had perseverance and kept going, even when he had some really big questions. Let's go hear the story!"

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Scroll Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Bible
- "Scroll" Activity Page
- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- Ribbon
- Scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scroll" on paper, one per kid.
- Cut ribbon in 16-inch lengths, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Open up your bible to Galatians 6:9.
- Read it aloud for the children or invite a child to read it for the group.
- Then write the scripture on the whiteboard.
- Repeat the Memory Verse aloud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Give each kid a "Scroll" Activity Page.
- Explain that the Ethiopian man in the story was reading from a scroll, which is what our books today looked like a long time ago.
- Have the children cut out their scrolls using their scissors.
- They will write the scripture Galatians 6:9 inside their scroll (reference the scripture written out on the whiteboard)
- Encourage the kids to decorate their scrolls with the coloring supplies.
- Then they will carefully roll up their paper from both ends toward the middle so it looks like a real scroll. Assist if needed.
- Show them how to tie the length of ribbon around their scroll to keep it closed.
- Let them practice opening their scrolls and reading the Memory Verse together.

What You Say:

"Your scrolls look so official! The man from Ethiopia was reading God's Word from a scroll, and he kept going, even when he had questions. God used Philip to help the Ethiopian man, and God can use you too! You can tell others the good news about Jesus. You can love others the way Jesus loves you. You can keep praying, even when you aren't getting an answer. Our Memory Verse reminds us to keep going. It says that when we keep doing good things, it will be worth it. Take your scroll home to help you remember the Memory Verse and remind you to keep going, even when things feel tough!"

3. Keep Going

What You Need:

- Bible
- Jenga® blocks (2 game sets)
- Index card
- Marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Split the kids into two teams.
- Have each of the two teams write the Memory Verse on the index card.

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible and read Galatians 6:9 to the group. You may also invite a child to read to the group.
- Each team will build a tower with the Jenga® blocks and place the Memory Verse card on the very top.
- Explain the game: Kids will take turns carefully pulling out one block from the tower. The goal is to keep the tower (and the Memory Verse card) from falling. (Unlike the regular game of Jenga®, the kids will not place the block they removed back on top of the tower.)
- Encourage kids to cheer for each other to “keep going!”
- Continue the game until the tower (and the verse) fall.
- When it falls, have the whole group say the Memory Verse out loud as you do the motions together.
 - “Let us not become tired” (*pretend to be tired and yawn*)
 - “of doing good.” (*give a big thumbs-up*)
 - “At the right time” (*point to your pretend watch*)
 - “we will gather a crop” (*pretend to pick fruit from a tree*)
 - “if we don’t give up.” (*shake your head “no” and cross arms*)
 - “Galatians 6:9” (*open hands like a book*)

What You Say:

“Great job! It was hard to keep that tower standing, wasn’t it? Our Memory Verse tells us not to give up when we’re doing good things. We should persevere and keep going! The Ethiopian official in our Bible Story kept searching for answers, and God helped him. God cared so much about this man that He sent Philip all the way to the exact right place to find him. Philip sat with the man and helped him understand more about God and the good news about Jesus! The Holy Spirit helped Philip know where to go, and the Holy Spirit will help you too!”

4. Pray

“Dear God, thank You for being a God who listens to our questions. Please help us to be brave and keep asking when we want to know more about You. Help us to keep going as we follow You and never give up. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”