
Acts 8:26-40

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 8:26-40
- In This Passage: An angel tells Philip to head south on a road. As Philip does, he sees an Ethiopian man in a carriage. The Holy Spirit tells him to walk beside the carriage, and Philip gets to tell the Ethiopian about Jesus. Later, the Holy Spirit snatches Philip away and puts him in a new spot. The Holy Spirit gives us direction, too.
- Bible Point: The Holy Spirit gives us direction.
- Summary Verse: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *The Holy Spirit gives us direction.* Kids are used to following directions from teachers and parents. But sometimes they have to make decisions on their own. Help them see that when they listen to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit can give them direction.
- Think About: How have you felt the Holy Spirit giving you direction?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that you and your kids will recognize the Holy Spirit's prompting in your life.

Quick Tip

- Much like the Ethiopian in the Bible, kids can sometimes be confused about Scripture. The words may be hard to read or understand. Be open to kids' questions, even if you don't have all the answers. Also, never force a child to read the Bible aloud. Kids who feel unfamiliar with the Bible may feel ashamed if they mess up words or can't find the passage.

This Lesson at a Glance



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Made for This” (watch or download [here](#))
- “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Is the Light” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “Seivert’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids play with pompoms and modeling dough.

Supplies

- pompoms (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- modeling dough
- sticky notes (1 per child)
- heart stickers (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Place a heart sticker on the center of a sticky note for each child.



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

Only available in One Room class format.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids complete several missions and ask questions.

Supplies

- Bibles

Easy Prep

- If you don’t know the *Mission: Impossible* theme song tune, look it up online.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids explore ways the Holy Spirit can give them direction as they pray.

Supplies

- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))



OBJECT LESSON

Kids play with remote control toys.

Supplies

- several remote control toys (1 for every 5 kids)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids go on a treasure hunt.

Supplies

- colorful box
- various small prizes (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Fill a colorful box with treats kids will like, such as stickers, snacks, or small toys; then hide the box somewhere in the room.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play simple board games.

Supplies

- several simple board games (1 for every 4 kids)



CRAFT

Kids make spinner games.

Supplies

- thin paper plates (1 per child)
- "Spinner Game" handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- 1-inch-long paper fasteners (1 per child)
- small zip ties (1 per child)
- child-safe scissors
- glue sticks
- washable markers or crayons

Easy Prep

- Use scissors or a pen to poke a small hole in the center of each paper plate.
- Zip a zip tie loosely for each child.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



MUSIC VIDEO

Made for This

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Made for This” (watch or download [here](#))
- “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Is the Light” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can choose your own worship songs from our Best Of Dig In Music DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Seivert's Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- "Seivert's Story" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or purchase DVDs [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "Seivert's Story"

Say: **Today we're learning that the Holy Spirit gives us direction.**

Ask: • **What else gives us direction, such as where to drive?**

Say: **Let's watch a video about a boy in Norway named Seivert. Seivert has some special things to give him direction!**

Watch "Seivert's Story."

Ask: • **The boat has equipment to help guide Seivert to the best fishing spot. How does the Holy Spirit guide us to good things?**

- **The boat has equipment that directs Seivert back to the shore, even when it's hard to see. Tell about something in which it's hard for you to see what to do.**

- **The boat has bumpers that keep it safe from crashing into the dock. How does the Holy Spirit keep us safe from bad things?**

Say: **Without all that equipment, Seivert wouldn't be able to find a good fishing spot or get back to shore safely. And we need the Holy Spirit to direct us, too! The Holy Spirit gives us direction, even when it's hard for us to see where to go or what to do.**



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give an elbow-five to five friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in a deep voice.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn that the Holy Spirit gives us direction. The Holy Spirit is God’s way to be with us. God loves to be with us and to help us know where to go and what to do, especially in times we feel lost.**

Share

- Share about a time *you* were lost.
- In small groups, have kids share about times *they* were lost.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Being lost can be scary. But we can remember that God’s Spirit is always with us. The Holy Spirit gives us direction when we don’t know where to go or what to do. The Bible tells how the Holy Spirit gave directions to many people. The Bible is one way God talks to us. Let’s listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that the Holy Spirit gives us direction.



DEEPER BIBLE Modeling-Dough Course

[15 min]

Supplies

- pompoms (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- modeling dough
- sticky notes (1 per child)
- heart stickers (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Place a heart sticker on the center of a sticky note for each child.

Blow Pompom Balls

Say: In our Bible story, we heard about ways the Holy Spirit gave Philip direction. The Holy Spirit told Philip to talk with a man riding in a carriage. Because Philip followed the Holy Spirit's directions, he was able to tell the man about Jesus.

Just like the Holy Spirit gave Philip direction, the Holy Spirit gives us direction, too! The Holy Spirit gives us direction to help other people know about God's love and to help us when we're not sure what to do.

Let's play a game with pompom balls to help us understand more about how the Holy Spirit gives us direction.

Set a sticky note on the ground for each child, and have kids sit at least 5 feet away from their notes. Give each child a pompom ball and a straw.

Say: **Let's see how fast you can blow your pompom to reach the heart sticker!**

Show kids how to blow through the straw to move the pompom without touching it. Let kids play until every child has gotten his or her pompom to the heart sticker.

Say: **That was fun! But it was hard to make the pompom go exactly where we wanted it to go. Let's try something else that will make it easier to guide the pompoms.**

Make a Modeling-Dough Course

Set out the modeling dough, and show kids how to roll the dough into a rope. Help kids set their heart sticky notes on a classroom table and then coil the dough ropes around the stickies to create circular swirls.



Kids can place their pompoms at the outer part of the dough circles and then use their straws to blow the pompoms through the swirls to the heart stickers in the center.

Let kids play for several minutes.

Ask: • **We tried two different ways to get the pompoms to the stickers.**

Explain which way was easier for you.

Say: **It was easier for the pompom to reach the heart sticker when it had the dough to guide it where it needed to go. That can remind us of the Holy Spirit! When we try to do things on our own, we might get off track sometimes, like when we tried to blow the pompom without anything to guide it. But God wants to help us! That's why God sent us the Holy Spirit to give us direction. The Holy Spirit might guide us with a feeling in our hearts, a thought that pops into our heads, and the words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit gives us direction to help keep us safe, to help us become better friends with Jesus, and to help other people.**



CORE BIBLE AT HOME
Not available for this age level.

[20 min]

To use this feature, please ask your DIG IN Director to create a **One Room** classroom. For instructions and tips on creating a classroom for at-home lessons, click [here](#).



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Acts: God Sends Philip to an Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bibles

Easy Prep

- If you don't know the *Mission: Impossible* theme song tune, look it up online.

Mission: Scatter

Have kids huddle in the middle of the room. Start humming the *Mission: Impossible* theme song.

Say: **I have a series of missions for you today. Let's see how well you can follow the mission directions. Mission 1: The church is in danger. We have to split up to stay safe! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to scatter on the count of three! One...two...three!**

Have kids scatter around the room.

Say: **Just before today's Bible story, this is what happened to the church. That might seem like a bad thing, but God was up to something. You see, with all these new Christians in different places, they could tell more and more people about Jesus!**

Ask: • **Think of a time you had to go to a new place and something good that happened there.** Share your own example first, such as going to a new school and meeting a new friend or trying a new restaurant (that you didn't want to go to) and loving the food there. Then have kids share in pairs.

Say: **Our true Bible story today is about one of the people who had to scatter to a new place. His name was Philip. Let's see how God used Philip to spread the word about Jesus to a new place.**

Mission: Chariot

Say: **Philip had a special mission, but he had to follow every direction to get the mission right. The Holy Spirit gives us direction, and the Holy Spirit gave Philip direction, too. Let's see how well you can follow directions like the ones for Philip's mission. First, you'll have to prepare for the mission.**

Have two-thirds of the kids form pairs and make wheelbarrows. To make a wheelbarrow, one partner (not a girl in a dress) will lie facedown on the floor and then push up with his or her arms. The other partner will pick up the first partner's legs and "push" that child like a wheelbarrow. Have pairs push each other around the room for about a minute of practice.

To the remaining kids, say: **Okay, for the rest of you, I have your next mission. Your mission is to head south until you get to the wall.** Point south so kids know where to go. (If you're not sure which way is south, just make up a direction.)

Once the non-wheelbarrow kids are lined up on the south wall, have everyone freeze. Say: **God sent an angel to tell Philip to head south. So those of you who just went south, you're all Philips.**

There was a treasurer from Ethiopia—he was an important guy who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He was riding in a carriage nearby. So those of you with your hands on the ground, you're the chariots. Those of you

steering are the Ethiopian treasurers. While you're riding in your chariot, you're reading a Bible. That'll be too hard for you to hold right now, so just imagine it.

Now that we know who's who, it's time for Philip to get his next mission. Hum a line from the *Mission: Impossible* theme song. Say: Philips, are you ready for mission number three?

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is this. Read Acts 8:29. Give each Philip a specific mission by pointing out a different chariot for each Philip to walk beside.

After kids walk beside chariots for a minute or so, have everyone sit down in trios formed by a chariot, an Ethiopian, and the Philip that was walking beside them.

Ask Questions

Say: **Philip heard the treasurer reading the Bible and asked if he understood what he was reading. Just like Philip, the Ethiopian needed direction! He said he needed someone to explain it to him.**

So Philip sat with the Ethiopian in the chariot. The Bible tells us exactly what words the Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah, so let's read along and see if we need explanation, too. Think about what questions *you* have as you hear these verses.

Read Acts 8:32-33.

Ask: • **What questions do you have about these verses?**

• **What explanations do you have about these verses?**

• **Tell about a time you needed help understanding something.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in their trios.

Say: **The Ethiopian had a question. Let's hear it.**

Read Acts 8:34.

Say: **Philip used these verses to tell the Ethiopian about Jesus. He probably explained that these verses were talking about what Jesus would do for us.**

The verses mean that Jesus died for us, just like people in Bible times sacrificed a sheep to pay for their wrongs. And when Jesus was on trial, he didn't argue or try to talk his way out of dying. The way he died was humiliating and not fair.

Isaiah wrote these verses a long time before Jesus died. They're called a prophecy, predicting what would happen to Jesus. So Philip explained that Jesus died just the way the prophecy said. And Philip explained the good news—that Jesus died to forgive our sins and that he came back to life!

Because the Holy Spirit gives us direction, and Philip followed those directions, he got to tell someone from Africa about Jesus! God had a surprising way of spreading the good news all over! Wow!

Talk About It

Say: **Let's talk about the missions you just experienced.**

Ask: • **When I asked you to do something, you didn't always know why.**

What reasons did you think I had?

• **What did Philip know about why the Holy Spirit was directing him?**

• **Explain whether you're the kind of person who likes to know why you're doing something or you just do whatever you're asked.** Share first.

Say: **When an angel told Philip to go south, that was it. He didn't explain why. But Philip went. When the Holy Spirit told Philip to walk by a chariot, Philip didn't know who was in the chariot or that he needed help understanding the Bible. Sometimes when the Holy Spirit gives us direction, we don't get an explanation. Sometimes we just need to follow directions like Philip and trust**

that God has an important mission for us.

Mission: Baptize

Say: **Philip's mission wasn't over! After the Ethiopian heard about Jesus, he believed everything he'd heard. When the chariot passed by some water, the Ethiopian asked Philip to baptize him.**

Baptizing is a special thing, so we're not going to act it out or pretend to do it. But your next mission will be to stand with your trio, pretending you're standing in the river water right after the Ethiopian's baptism.

Allow time for kids to stand.

Say: **And Philip had one more mission. The Holy Spirit gives us direction, but not usually like this! Let's see what happened.**

Read Acts 8:39-40.

Say: **Wow! I don't think you'll be able to complete a mission of transporting across the room. But your final mission, should you choose to accept it, is to get to the corner of the room farthest from you as quickly as possible!** Allow time.

Have kids discuss these questions with others who ended up in the same corner.

Ask: • **What do you think it felt like to be snatched away and put in a new place?**

• **If the Holy Spirit snatched you and put you somewhere new, where would you want to be?**

Say: **The fact is, we don't always get to pick where the Holy Spirit directs us. When the Holy Spirit gives us direction, it might not be where we choose to go. That's okay! Like Philip, we can follow the Holy Spirit's direction, no matter what. We won't *always* hear from the Holy Spirit. But if you're not sure you've ever heard from him, try listening more. If your cellphone wasn't getting reception, you'd move, right? Otherwise you wouldn't be able to get phone calls or texts. In the same way, sometimes we need to adjust our lives to make sure the Holy Spirit has space to get through to us.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Ask for Direction

[5 min]

Supplies

- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))

Touch and Pray

Say: **Today we learned that the Holy Spirit gives us direction. The Holy Spirit is always with us and wants to help us. We can ask him for direction anytime, in any way. Let's pray about some ways the Holy Spirit gives us direction.**

- Lead children to touch the edges of their eyes, and then lead them in a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them see people who need help and love.
- Lead children to touch their mouths, and then lead them in a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them speak kind words to others.
- Lead children to touch their feet, and then lead them in a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them know where he wants their feet to go.
- Lead children to touch their hands, and then lead them in a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them know what work he wants them to do.
- Lead children to touch their ears, and then lead them in a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them listen for anything God wants to tell them.

If you have extra time, spend some time reading today's Bible story, "Stop, Look, and Listen—by Philip," from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Say: **God is always with you through the Holy Spirit. Ask him for direction anytime, anywhere. I hope you'll come back next week to share how the Holy Spirit gave you direction!**



OBJECT LESSON

Remote Control Direction

[10 min]

Supplies

- several remote control toys (1 for every 5 kids)

Tip

- If your church doesn't have remote control toys, consider asking families if you can borrow some for the day.

Create a Course

Say: **I've brought some fun toys for us to play with today. These remote controls steer the toys in different directions. First, let's make a path through our legs for the toys to go through.**

- Form groups of about five kids, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group.
- Have groups spread out in your room so the paths have space between them.
- Have groups work together to position four group members so the toys have to go under or around their legs. Have adult or teen helpers stagger the kids to create some turns in the path.

Steer the Toys

Say: **Now that we've created paths, it's time to steer our toys through the human obstacle course. We'll use the remote controls to direct the toys.**

- Choose one child from each group to go first. On "go," kids can steer the toys through the obstacle course and under kids' legs.
- Have kids cheer for their friends and celebrate when the toys make it all the way through.
- Let each child have a turn steering a toy.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Was steering the toy easy or hard? Why?**

Say: **We have to get used to using the remote control. But once we get the hang of it, we can use the remotes to guide the toys. Just like the remote controls make toys go in certain directions, the Holy Spirit gives us direction. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but he guides us and helps us go where God wants us to go.**

Tell about a time the Holy Spirit prompted *you* to go to a certain place. Maybe it was to visit a grandparent or to teach kids in the room you're in right now.

Ask: • **Where might the Holy Spirit guide *you* to go?** Help kids get started, if needed. Kids might mention visiting people who are sick or in a nursing home, going to a day care or preschool class, or even going to get ice cream.

Say: **The Holy Spirit guides us and steers us in the right direction.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Goin' on a Treasure Hunt!

[10 min]

Supplies

- colorful box
- various small prizes (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Fill a colorful box with treats kids will like, such as stickers, snacks, or small toys; then hide the box somewhere in the room.

Go on a Treasure Hunt

Say: **Friends, I have something exciting to tell you. There's treasure hidden somewhere in this room! In order to find it, you'll have to listen carefully and do what I say. My directions will guide us to the treasure!**

Have kids form a line behind you, and lead them on an imaginary path around the room to the treasure. Guide them through the following directions.

- Pretend to walk through high grass, and have kids march and lift their legs really high to stomp down the grass.
- Pretend to crawl through a cave, and have kids crawl on their hands and knees.
- Pretend to swim through a lake, and have kids move their arms like they're swimming. They can even do a dog paddle.
- Pretend to wade through a swamp, and have kids take big steps and walk very slowly.
- Pretend to run up a hill, pumping arms higher and higher, and then back down the other side, pumping arms lower and lower.
- Pretend to climb a tree, and then look around.
- As kids look around, point to where you've hidden the treasure, and invite them to run and find it.
- Give each child a prize from the treasure box.

Talk About It

Say: **We found the treasure!**

Ask: • **What was your favorite part of our journey to find the treasure?**

Share your favorite part; then invite kids' responses. Kids might say they liked pretending to swim or climb a tree the best.

Say: **Just like I gave directions for our treasure hunt, the Holy Spirit gives us direction for our lives. You followed my directions, and they led us to a special surprise. In our Bible story, Philip followed the Holy Spirit's direction, and the Ethiopian man became friends with Jesus!**

Tell about a time the Holy Spirit led *you* to share Jesus' love. Perhaps you felt him prompting you to bake a yummy treat for a friend or tell someone you met that Jesus loves him or her.

Say: **When we follow the Holy Spirit's leading, we discover the best treasure of all—friendship with Jesus!** If time allows, end by leading kids through the treasure hunt again in reverse order so they end up back in their seats.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

It's Your Turn!

[10 min]

Supplies

- several simple board games (1 for every 4 kids)

Tip

- Choose games lower-elementary kids enjoy like Hi Ho Cherry-O, Sorry!, and Chutes and Ladders.

Play Games and Follow Directions

Ask: • **Have you played any of these games before?** Invite kids' responses.

Say: **When we play games, there are often spinners or cards that tell us what to do next. Let's follow directions and play games together!**

- Set out several different simple board games, and let children choose what they'd like to play.
- Ask an adult or teen helper to play with each group of kids to help with reading and directions.
- Affirm kids as they follow directions while they play the games.
- Give a two-minute warning; then ask kids to help clean up the games.

Talk About It

Say: **Playing games with friends is fun!**

Ask: • **How did you know what to do next as you played the games?**

Invite kids' responses.

Say: **Games have cards, spinners, or other things that tell us what to do next. Sometimes we were happy with the card we drew, but sometimes they weren't happy directions. Still, it's fun to play and spend time with friends. The Holy Spirit is our friend who is always with us. Even though we can't see him, he's with us right now. The Holy Spirit gives us direction by helping us move through every day. He might tell us to hug our moms or dads before they leave for work or let our brothers or sisters have the first piece of dessert at dinner. The Holy Spirit helps us share Jesus' love with everyone!**



CRAFT Spinner Game

[20 min]

Supplies

- thin paper plates (1 per child)
- “Spinner Game” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- 1-inch-long paper fasteners (1 per child)
- small zip ties (1 per child)
- child-safe scissors
- glue sticks
- washable markers or crayons

Easy Prep

- Use scissors or a pen to poke a small hole in the center of each paper plate.
- Zip a zip tie loosely for each child.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Spinner Game

Say: **When we play board games, there’s usually a spinner or cards that give us directions, like how many spots we get to move forward in the game.**

Show kids the sample craft. Say: **For our craft today, let’s make a game that will give us directions, too.**

- Give each child a “Spinner Game” handout. Let children color each of the pictures and then cut out the circle.
- While kids work, ask what their favorite board games are to play at home.
- Give each child a paper plate turned upside down. Help kids glue their circles to the center of their paper plates.
- Kids can decorate the rims of the paper plates with markers or crayons.
- Help each child poke a paper fastener through the center of the circle, going through the hole you made earlier in the middle of the paper plate. Then fold the ends of the paper fastener so it pokes up about a half inch on top of the plate.
- Help each child place the loop of the zip tie over the paper fastener to create a spinner.
- Show kids how to flick the zip tie with a finger to make it spin.

Say: **The pictures on our spinner games show us directions the Holy Spirit might give us.**

Play With the Spinner

Invite the children to take turns flicking the zip ties on their own spinners. Choose a child and explain the picture that his or her zip tie points to. Have kids talk about why they might want to do what each picture says to do. Continue this process until you've explained each picture to kids.

Say: **The Holy Spirit gives us good directions that help us grow closer to God and show God's love to others. When you go home, you can use your spinner game to give you directions to show God's love.**