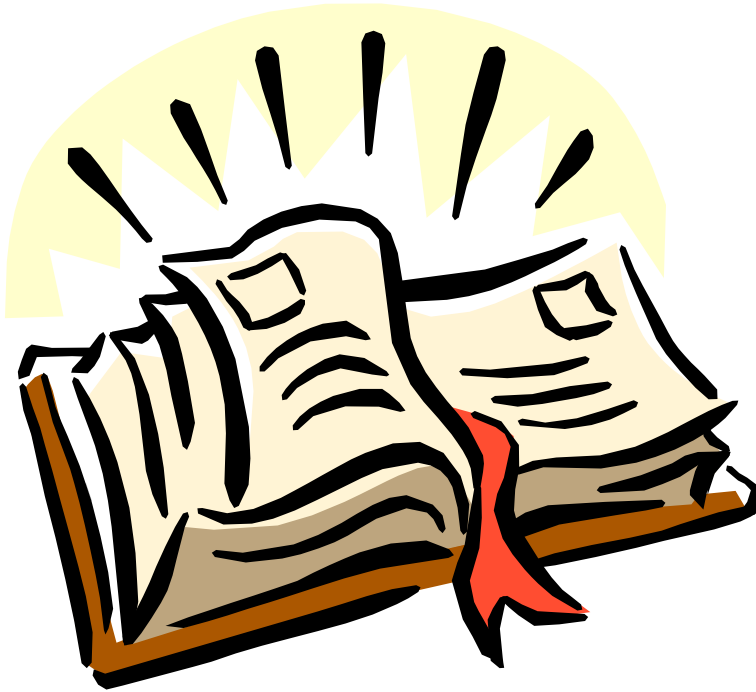


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Philip and the Ethiopian

**THEME: Jesus can use us to tell others
about Him!**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **Philip and the Ethiopian**. The theme was "**Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**" The Lord used Philip in a great way as he shared the gospel with the man from Ethiopia. God also wants to use our lives as well. He uses people like you and me to share the good news of Jesus with others.

This week we are going to look at what it means to be asked to "go" by God. We will study two men who were asked to go and share about the Lord. Their names are Philip and Jonah. We will learn a lot about how God works in our lives and how He wants to use us to tell others about Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 8:26-40**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

G.O. - "God Ordains"

Text: **Jonah 1:2** - "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Also read Acts 8:26

This week we are going to read a story about two men that loved the Lord. Each one wanted to do what was right. But an opportunity to serve the Lord came to each one and they both reacted very different. One is obedient and full of faith and the other decided not to trust in God and walked away. This week we will see the differences and hopefully learn some things in our own walk with the Lord.

Let's get started and see what happens when the Lord asks two different men to "go." Their names are Jonah and Philip. As we see in our Bible reading that the word of the LORD came to Jonah, telling him to "arise and go." We also see in the book of Acts that an angel of the Lord called upon Philip and told him to "arise and go." When God asked each of these men to "go" He didn't give them very much information to "go" with. Jonah knew that he was to go to Nineveh, that great city. Well, we can only imagine what he must have thought about going to that city. They were in total rebellion against God and enemies to the Jews; perhaps he even thought that he would lose his life if he started talking to these people about their wickedness. Then we see the Lord also telling a man by the name of Philip to go. All he knew was that he was to go down some road in the desert! He just had to trust the Lord to tell him where he would be going, it could be every bit as dangerous as where Jonah had to go.

Jesus commanded His disciples in Matthew 28:19 to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Lord wants all of us to "go" for Him. He wants us to tell others about Him. We can always be sure that when He is telling us to "go" that it is because He wants to use us and He will give us the strength we need to obey. What do you think that Philip and Jonah will each do? What would you do? Be sure to read tomorrow to find out what Philip and Jonah do.

Continued on Day two...

- Has the Lord ever asked you to "go"?
- Do you think it was scary for Jonah and Philip to go to strange places? Who helped them?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ordain: Set apart for a special duty, job, or purpose.

Day Two

"G.O." - God Opens

Text: Jonah 1:3 - "But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."

Also read Acts 8:27

Continued from Day One... Today we are going to look at how Jonah and Philip reacted to God's call to "go." First, our Bible verse says that Jonah ran from the presence of the Lord. The people of Nineveh were very mean and evil. Jonah did not want to go to them because he was afraid God would forgive them, and he wanted God to punish them for their wickedness. Jonah's heart wasn't in the right place because he didn't like the people of Nineveh. They were mean, and he did not like them. We may not always feel like telling people about Jesus, especially if they have been mean to us, but God loves them too and wants to do a work in their lives.

Now let's look at what Philip did. The Bible tells us that he arose and went. This is what it means to obey. The Bible does not tell us that Philip sat there and started asking the Lord a lot of questions before he went. And he didn't run the other way; he just went. Philip trusted and obeyed God. The Lord desires to use anyone who believes in His Son, Jesus, and who is willing to "go." Even though Philip had no idea what he would do once he got to the place where the Lord was calling him to, he just trusted in the Lord to take care of the details.

Whenever the Lord asks us to "go" we can trust that He has opened all the doors to get us to the place He wants us. All through the Bible we see how the Lord chooses to use all kinds of people for His plans. He still uses people today. God uses boys and girls, men and women just like He used Jonah and Philip. We will find out tomorrow what happens with Jonah and Philip. **Continued on Day Three...**

- Have you ever had a time when you doubted the Lord?
- Does God want us to go and tell the good news to people who are different from us?
- Share what you think may happen with Philip and Jonah.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Doubt: The opposite of trust. To doubt the Lord means we are not trusting Him to be in control.

Day Three

"G.O." - God (wants) Obedience

Text: Jonah 1:4 - "But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up."

Also read Acts 8:29-33

Continued from Day Two... Philip answered God's call in a much different way than Jonah did. Because of how Philip and Jonah answered God's call we see two very different things happen in their lives. The Holy Spirit led Philip to preach to an Ethiopian man while Jonah found himself in the middle of a great storm on the sea. Which place do you think that you would rather be? How we answer the Lord when He calls us to do something is very important. We see that the Lord used Philip in a great way when he was obedient. He shared some things from God's word with the Ethiopian and he was saved! Wow! God can use us in the same way when we are obedient.

But we see Jonah getting himself into a big mess because he ran from God. Philip had faith in the Lord and was able to share about Jesus, but Jonah could not get past his hatred of the people of Nineveh and missed out on the Lord's blessings for obedience. The Bible says that the Lord disciplines those whom He loves. He loved Jonah and He loves you and me. That means that just like a loving father He will discipline us at times. We see here that Jonah found himself in a world of trouble because of his disobedience. He ends up being thrown overboard from the ship and swallowed by a big fish! But God was still in control and was about to work some really neat things into Jonah's heart.

When the Lord calls us to "go" we have to remember that He is in complete control of every situation. We need to be obedient even if we don't want to and trust He will give us strength. Sometimes just telling others that we are Christians and that Jesus died for them can seem hard or scary to us. But remember that God will help us with the very words to say. It is when we disobey or run from God that we end up making a mess of things. When we obey there is so much that the Lord can do with our lives. What plans does He have for you?

Continued on Day Four...

- Are you willing to "go" where God leads?
- Will He still be in control of things even if we disobey?
- The Bible says that God will _____ those whom He _____.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rebel: To go against God's will.

Day Four

"G.O." - God Only

Text: Jonah 3:1-2 - "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.' "

Also read Acts 8:35

Continued from Day Three... Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the big fish. Yuck!!! But Jonah also did some pretty serious thinking during that time and he did something very important. He asked for forgiveness. He realized that he was following his own will and plan and refusing to follow God. He then asked the Lord to forgive him for disobeying Him. How many of you remember the rest of the story? Did God just leave him there in the belly of the big fish? He certainly could have and that would have been the end of the story of Jonah. Even though Jonah didn't deserve a second chance, He gave him one. We can mess up too and sin. But God isn't through with us. We sometimes have to learn the hard way like Jonah, but at least we learn. God's grace is bigger than the big fish. When Jonah turned back to God, not only was he rescued from the fish, God told him that He still wanted to use him. His career as a prophet of God wasn't over! God can still use us even after we make mistakes.

Philip didn't have to learn the hard way. It is always better to obey the first time then to have to learn obedience the hard way. Have you ever disobeyed your parents and found out that it wasn't a very pleasurable thing to do? How it would have been so much better just to do what you were asked to do in the first place. It is then that your parents will bless you. We need to remember Philip when God calls on us to share His truth with others. What a wonderful privilege it is that God would want to share the truth of Jesus with others through us. We are God's instruments to share the news about His love.

God wants to use our lives to spread the good news about Jesus all over the world. Maybe someday he will even use you and me to share with someone on our street or around the world. But know this; that God does have a wonderful plan for our lives. Let's ask Him what that plan is and then be willing to say "YES" to whatever it may be! **Continued on Day Five...**

- What did God teach Jonah?
- Did Philip learn the hard way or the easy way?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Repent: To turn away from sin.

Day Five

Going With Your Eyes on God!

Text: Matthew 10:20 - "For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

Also read: Proverbs 3:5-6

Continued from Day Four... Today we are at the end of our look at the lives of two men in the Bible that the Lord used greatly. God worked in their lives, taught them a lot of wonderful things and used them to bless many other people. But the most important thing we can learn is that it was God who was doing the work, not Jonah and Philip. They were willing to be used (at least Jonah was eventually willing that is!) and God used them to bring many people to a knowledge of God.

When Jonah returned to Nineveh and preached God's message people everywhere were repenting and turning from their sin. God used Jonah to save an entire city! Wow, could you imagine being used like that? God can still do that today. God chose to use Jonah in that way; maybe He wants to do something like that in our lives.

Philip was used to share the good news with the Ethiopian who became saved. He went back to his country and no doubt shared the wonderful news with others. In fact, church historians believe that a church was established in Ethiopia and many other people were saved, all because Philip obeyed when God called. Philip went on to reach others with the gospel.

Let's learn from these two men's lives. God has a plan for us and He will use us if we will let Him. All we need to do is to ask Him what He would like for us to do. Then when He tells us, let's just do it! It is an exciting life to follow Jesus. It is the best life you can possibly have. So when God says to "go", let's GO!

- What did you learn from Philip's life this week?
- What did you learn from Jonah's life this week?
- What will you do when God says, "go"?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week ask the Lord to speak to your heart about what it really means to "go" for Him. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to speak boldly the name of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"...the Spirit of the Lord
caught Philip away..."

Third Grade and Above

"Now when they came up
out of the water, the
Spirit of the Lord caught
Philip away, so that the
eunuch saw him no more;
and he went on his way
rejoicing."

Acts 8:39