

## **SMALL GROUP RESOURCES**

**BIG IDEA:** We use God's Word to teach and learn.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Acts 8:26-40

Isaiah 53

Matthew 27:11-32

Matthew 28:19,20

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Read Acts 8:26-40

Where has the Ethiopian eunuch just been?

What has recently happened there?

Why isn't the eunuch able to put together what he is reading with what has been happening around him?

What does his question of Philip tell us about this man?

Read Isaiah 53

Who is this passage talking about?

How do you know?

What do you have access to that the Philip and the eunuch did not?

What questions do you have about these two passages?

What will you do to find the answers?

### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

Praise God for creating language.

Confess your need to read the Bible more.

Thank God for all the resources to help you understand the Bible.

Ask God for opportunities to teach and learn more about Him through the Bible.

### **ACTION:**

Daily read through Psalm 119 until you find a scripture that is meaningful to you. Copy that scripture and put it in a place where you will see and read it several times throughout your day.

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## **FAMILY RESOURCES**

**BIG IDEA:** We use God's Word to teach and learn.

### **READ ACTS 8:26**

Who told Philip to go?

Who do you listen to and obey?

Learn your directions—north, south, east, west.

### **READ ACTS 8:27-29**

Who is the most important person that you have ever met?

Why were they important?

When/where did you meet him/her?

### **READ ACTS 8:30-31**

Who do you ask about things that you do not know?

Have a foot race with a bicycle.

### **READ ACTS 8:32-35**

Tell each other what you know about Jesus' death and resurrection..

### **READ ACTS 8:36-40**

Why did the eunuch want to be baptized?

Draw a map to the nearest body of water.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

" \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

will \_\_\_\_\_ ,

but \_\_\_\_\_ will

\_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 21:33

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T D M D B U Q E W J E U O X F Z U E S O H A G G A I H I Z  
J Y Q C W B S V B N K U R W U G K L N X D A M O S K S D E

Find all the books  
of the Old Testament.

How many words  
can you make using  
the letters in

**OLD TESTAMENT?**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:

### We use God's Word to teach and learn.

The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

Begin with (say if fast): Stand up; sit down; touch your left little finger to your right ear; grab your left ankle with your right hand, let go; stand up; turn around; say "hip, hip, hoo-ray" three times; shake hands with your neighbor on your left; sit down. Ready go! - When people complain and are confused, ask if it would be better if you wrote it down (and for the younger kids acted it out). This is how God helps us learn. He had His word written down so we could understand and learn more about God.

Use a concordance to try and answer some questions that people have.

### KEY PHRASES:

You can find answers to your questions in the Bible. Do you have a question? Where can we find the answer?

THINGS/NOUNS: angel; Philip; south; desert road; Jerusalem; Gaza; Ethiopian eunuch; important official; queen's treasury; chariot; book of Isaiah; Spirit; questions; scripture; water; Azotus; Caesarea;

ACTIONS: go; started; met; worship; sitting; reading; ran; explains; traveled; baptized; stop; took; rejoicing;

IDEAS: on his way – How many opportunities do we accept or ignore when we are "on our way"?; How strange it would be for such a valuable thing as a scroll to be open and read in a chariot!; near – In our culture we try to stay FAR away; Can you catch up with a chariot?; Are we trying to promote understanding when we approach someone?;

### BIBLE DRILLS:

#### What word/s are found in all these verses?

Numbers 22:8	Judges 14:12	1 Kings 9:9
Nehemiah 6:4	Esther 5:8	Job 42:4
Psalms 119:145	Proverbs 24:26	Isaiah 58:9
Zechariah 10:6	Mark 12:28	2 Corinthians 5:12
Colossians 4:6	1 Peter 3:15	

## OBJECT LESSON:

Make a model of a simple origami. Have people try to create the origami on their own, without taking the original model apart. Then, show them step by step how to create the origami. Use this to illustrate the importance of having and following instructions. God has given us the Bible so that we can learn and teach others.

OR do the same thing with legos - COPY CAT - Use legos (or a type of link toy or use construction paper, etc.) to make a sample. Show people the sample, then ask them to make one exactly like it. (At first, hide the original) Compare their efforts to the original. Then, let them make another copy, leaving the original out to check on as they work. We use the Bible, like the original, to teach and learn about God.

### MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS:

Use Memory verse relays - (Say words aloud as they are placed on the floor/table.)

Memory verse puzzles – Set out groups of memory verses that are cut in a unique way (not word by word) and let people put them back together. Be sure the puzzles are read out loud when completed.

**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:33**

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

"Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Show the whole family a good way to clean the bathroom, then let them try it. Help them to remember what you showed them. God wrote the Bible to show us a

good way to live our lives. We try living our lives, then we read God's Word to remind us of the best things to do.

Make a questions box for your home and/or church where people can write and leave their questions. What resources do you have for finding answers to the questions?

### **GAMES:**

Wheelbarrow (chariot) relay - have adults man the wheelbarrows and kids climb in and out - be careful! or do the wheelbarrow with hands on the floor and feet in the hands of a team mate.

BIBLE BINGO - with names of Books of NT or OT on the playing cards

Chart of Bible Books (one for each group) - make chart of Bible books, cutting them into the organized sections of history, poetry, prophecy, etc. for both NT and OT. Take turns putting them in order and being timed. (As sessions progress, cut apart the sets and see who can put them in order.) Challenge everyone to learn or help teach the book order of both OT and NT books.

Memory Verse Word Puzzles—use for relays

Can you spell it? Not all of the books are easy to spell! Draw the name of a book and ask someone to write it on a board. If they get it right, they get to draw the next book to spell.

Memory Verse Word Puzzles

Duck, Duck, Goose (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, ACTS! ...or any part/section of the books in their order)

Tic-Tac-Toe - Let the kids put an X or O on the board if they can tell if a book is in the OT or NT.

Make/play a fishing game with sticks, string, and magnets for poles and paper fish with paper clips on them.

Hot Potato toss/pass ball (or potato) to each other. Each person who catches the "potato" must say the next book of the Bible, or next word in the memory verse, before tossing/passing the ball on. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

### **SONG OPTIONS:**

God's Word Is For Me  
The Wisdom of the Lord  
If you Want to be Wise  
Do What It Says (James 1:22-25)

### **CRAFTS:**

Each person begins on #1 and progresses through the crafts as each is finished.

#1 - Bible Book Cover (These need to be designed to go over the Bibles that will be given to each person. Put their new Bible in them for display and for pick up at the end of the sessions or as completed.)

#2 - Book Ends/stand (Made of wood bottoms with 4 holes and with bent wire in the holes and shaped to hold their new Bible in either an open or closed position- personally painted/finished wood?)

#3 - Bible Soap (God sent Jesus so that we could be clean!)

#4 - Make "old parchment" for use as a scroll, writing an appropriate verse on it

#5 - Make a Bible Book mark

OTHER OPTIONS - Memory verse plaque

### **COMMUNION OPTIONS:**

Why do we take communion? What does communion mean? Let's see if we can answer those questions using the Bible. We might start by using a concordance to look up the word communion. We'll be disappointed, because the word we use to describe this part of our service isn't a Bible word. I seem to remember that Da Vinci once painted a scene that he titled the last supper. What if we look up "supper". Now we find several references to look at. The most relevant ones are Luke 22:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:20-30. The key phrase that we find in both passages is "do this in remembrance of me".

When we eat the bread and drink the grape juice we are to remember Jesus. The bread is to remind us that Jesus is God, but He came to earth and became human. He had a real physical body. The grape juice reminds us of Jesus

death on the cross and the blood that He shed to forgive us of our sins. We may think of other things when we take communion, but we should always remember these things.

### **OFFERING OPTIONS:**

Please open your Bible and turn to 2 Corinthians 9. Maybe you'd prefer to go to your smart phone and bring up the YouVersion app. Many of you have multiple Bibles in a variety of forms. Do you understand what a privilege that is? There are many places in the world where Bibles of any kind are rare and precious. There are an estimated 160 million people without access to any Scripture in their heart language and may need some form of Bible translation to begin. At least 1.5 billion people are without the full Bible in their first language. The offering Paul was collecting was to provide food for people suffering from famine. That need still exists in many parts of our world today. Consider also, the number of people who do not have access to the Bible. Do some investigation and consider supporting a mission organization that specializes in Bible translation.

### **MORE RESOURCES:**

It is possible for anyone to read and understand the Bible. There are a few basic principles and basic tools that can help anyone. These principles come from this article on the web:

<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2014/03/12/7-principles-of-biblical-interpretation/>

1. Identify the kind of literature your text is for insight into its meaning.
2. Consider the context of the passage for a better understanding of its meaning.
3. Read the text for its plain and obvious meaning.
4. Try to discern the writer's intentions when he wrote the text.
5. Look carefully at the language of the text for what it reveals about its meaning.
6. Notice the various theological themes in the text.
7. Always take a God-centered perspective for interpreting

your text.

There is another approach here that is good, but more difficult to summarize. This one includes a sample exercise at the end of the blog.

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/5-steps-to-understanding-any-biblical-text/>

A Newcomer's Guide to the Bible: Themes and Time-lines by Michael C. Armour - This is probably the book to begin with if you are not familiar with the Bible.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart - This is the best book I've found on how to read the Bible. It is used as a college text book, so it is not an easy read.

The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible by Scot McKnight - This is a book for people who have been reading the Bible for years. It introduces some new perspectives that will help people see the text in new ways.