

Faith Story

Small Group Lesson



Ages
6-7

Power Point

I can tell my faith story to others.

Scripture Memory Verse

Our ears have heard,
our own eyes have seen,
and our hands touched
this Word [Jesus].

—1 John 1:1b

Bible Lesson

Philip shares the Gospel with an Ethiopian man.

—Acts 8:26-38

Overview

When the disciple Philip encountered an Ethiopian who was searching the meaning of the prophets, he helped the man understand how Jesus' story could be his story as well. The Ethiopian eagerly responded to the Gospel message. How do we help children share their faith stories? By showing them how to intersect their story with His story.

Discussion Questions

1. Who told Philip to go? (*The Lord's angel.*)
2. Who did Philip meet and what was he doing? (*An Ethiopian man reading the book of Isaiah in the Bible.*)
3. What did the man ask Philip to do? (*Help him understand the Scriptures.*)
4. Who did Philip tell the man about? (*Jesus, the One who fulfilled many Bible prophecies.*)
5. How would you feel if you told someone about Jesus and they asked Him into his heart? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Communion Connection

Materials: Bibles, communion supplies.

(Have kids form a circle and hold hands. Join in the circle yourself.) Kids, we are standing together and holding hands to show us how our lives are all connected. As Christians, we are part of the family of God. Just as we each have some kind of family we belong to, we belong to all the people who have followed God since the beginning. *(Hold up Bible.)* Their story is also our story. Let's tell a little about our story. *(Tell a brief faith story about yourself, such as when you became a Christian, God worked in your life in a special way, or you told someone about Christ and they believed. Encourage kids to also share a brief faith story of their own.)*

One of the greatest stories of all in the Bible—to the Israelite people and for us—is how God freed His people from Egyptian slavery. Moses trusted God's promises and led the people out of Egypt. Before the people were freed, God told Moses to lead the people in a solemn ceremony called the Passover. The tenth plague against Egypt was coming soon, when God would kill the firstborn. To avoid the plague, God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, spread the blood of the lamb on frames of their doorways, quickly eat roasted lamb meal and be ready to leave Egypt early the next morning. The angel bringing death on the first-borns would see blood on the doorways and “pass over” those houses. Every year after that first Passover, to all generations, the Israelites were to celebrate the Passover as a feast to the Lord.

When Jesus came, He gave the Passover celebration a new meaning. The night before Jesus was betrayed and killed on a cross, He celebrated the Passover with His disciples. From now on, just as Passover was a memorial to celebrate the Israelites' release from slavery in Egypt, the "breaking the bread" and "drinking the cup" would be a memorial to celebrate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, which releases us from slavery to sin and death. Since then, that's exactly what Christians all over the world have been doing. We call it the "Lord's Supper," the Eucharist (which means thanksgiving) or Holy Communion. Every time we participate in a Communion ceremony, we join with Christians everywhere, remembering that Jesus bought our forgiveness on the cross by sacrificing his body and blood for us. (*Read Mark 14:22-24 and serve communion.*)



The Jesus Factor

"A lot of the Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus because the woman had said, "This man told me everything I have ever done."

—John 4:39

Materials: Bibles, four index cards, marker.

Preparation: Write the following statements on index cards, one statement per card: 1) Who Jesus is: 2) What Jesus came to do: 3) One thing Jesus has done for me: 4) Jesus wants you to know

Last week we looked at the story of a woman who was at a well and spoke with Jesus. Does anyone remember what happened? (*Allow responses.*) The woman spoke with Jesus and He told her about the "Living Water" He wanted to give her. The woman was so excited that she ran back to her town and told everyone about Jesus. She didn't have a Bible, she had never met Jesus before, but she came to believe He was God's Son. The people heard her faith story and got so excited they ran to meet Jesus. The woman's faith story was so powerful that the whole town came running to meet Jesus. We are going to review the woman's faith story to help us see how ***we can tell our faith story to others.*** The first thing the woman did was experience Jesus. The second thing she did was tell

others about Jesus. We need to do the same: first, experience Jesus; then, tell others about Him. Let's fill in the first statement. (*Pass out the four index cards. Guide kids in answering the question in card # order. Possible answers: #1—The Son of God, #2—Die on the cross for our sins. #3—answers may vary. Help the kids think of some cool testimony. #4—He wants to be your best friend and give you a new kind life.*) When we answer simple questions like these, we have the words to use as ***we tell our faith story to others.***

Small Group Activity

Faith Story Pictures

Materials: Art paper, colored markers, pencils, tempera paints, various art supplies.

We ***can tell our faith stories to others.*** What happened when Philip explained the Scriptures to the man in his chariot, and told the man how Jesus' story could be his story as well? (*He got baptized and believed in Jesus.*) What happened to the town when the woman told her faith story that day? (*They all ran to meet Jesus.*)

What do you think can happen to people when we tell them our faith story? (*They can know Jesus.*) Let's use these art supplies and draw and paint pictures of these stories and include your story because our story is also part of their story.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 9 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Faith Story



Ages
8-10

Small Group Lesson

Power Point

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Scripture Memory Verse

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Bible Lesson

Philip shares the Gospel with an Ethiopian man.

—Acts 8:26-38

Overview

When the disciple Philip encountered an Ethiopian who was searching the meaning of the prophets, he helped the man understand how Jesus' story could be his story as well. The Ethiopian eagerly responded to the Gospel message. How do we help children share their faith stories? By showing them how to intersect their story with His story.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the Ethiopian man doing in his chariot? (*Reading the book of Isaiah in the Bible.*)
2. What did he invite Philip to do? (*Come up and help him understand what he was reading.*)
3. How do you feel when you don't understand the Bible? (*Allow responses.*)
4. What did Philip tell the man? (*The good news about Jesus.*)
5. Do you have any good news about Jesus? (*Yes*) What is it? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Communion Connection

Materials: Large jar or something to hold cards, index cards, Bibles, communion supplies.

Preparation: On the index cards write one of the following statements on several cards depending on how many kids you have in attendance. (Approximately one card per two kids). Card #1—Share who Jesus is. Card #2—Share what Jesus has done. Card #3—Share a time where Jesus has done something for you. Card #4—Share what Jesus wants kids to know.

Philip followed the leading of the angel, ran up to the Ethiopian man, asked a simple question and explained a key Old Testament prophecy about Jesus. The Ethiopian understood the scriptures and wanted to be baptized.

Jesus' last words to His disciples in the Gospel of Matthew are: "Go to people of all nations and make them my disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Let's practice doing this. (*Have kids form pairs.*) I'd like you to think about your own personal faith story. I have four cards here. (*Read the four cards.*) I am going to place them in this jar and I would like each group to pick a card. Once you have the card, one person reads it and your partner answers it. Partners can ask questions to help understand the good news about Jesus. You have two minutes, and then place the cards back into the jar. Now, switch and have the other person choose and share. (*Lead the kids in a closing prayer.*)

One of the greatest stories of all in the Bible—to the Israelite people and for us—is how God freed His people from Egyptian slavery. Moses trusted

God's promises and led the people out of Egypt. Before the people were freed, God told Moses to lead the people in a solemn ceremony called the Passover. The tenth plague against Egypt was coming soon, when God would kill the firstborn. To avoid the plague, God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, spread the blood of the lamb on frames of their doorways, quickly eat roasted lamb meal and be ready to leave Egypt early the next morning. The angel bringing death on the first-borns would see blood on the doorways and "pass over" those houses. Every year after that first Passover, to all generations, the Israelites were to celebrate the Passover as a feast to the Lord.

When Jesus came, He gave the Passover celebration a new meaning. The night before Jesus was betrayed and killed on a cross, He celebrated the Passover with His disciples. From now on, just as Passover was a memorial to celebrate the Israelites' release from slavery in Egypt, the "breaking the bread" and "drinking the cup" would be a memorial to celebrate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, which releases us from slavery to sin and death. Since then, that's exactly what Christians all over the world have been doing. We call it the "Lord's Supper," the Eucharist (which means thanksgiving) or Holy Communion. Every time we participate in a Communion ceremony, we join with Christians everywhere, remembering that Jesus bought our forgiveness on the cross by sacrificing his body and blood for us. (*Read Mark 14:22-24 and serve communion.*)



The Jesus Factor

"A lot of the Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus because the woman had said, "This man told me everything I have ever done.""

—John 4:39

Materials: Tape recorder, digital recorder or something that will record the kid's voices only.

Preparation: Make sure the recorder works and has enough recording capacity for all the kids.

Last week we looked at the story of a woman who was at a well and spoke with Jesus. Does anyone

remember what happened? (*Allow responses.*) The woman spoke with Jesus and He told her about the "Living Water" He wanted to give her. The woman was so excited that she ran back to her town and told everyone about Jesus. She didn't have a Bible, she had never met Jesus before, but she had come to believe He was God's Son. The people heard her powerful faith story and got so excited they ran to meet Jesus. We are going to review the woman's faith story to help us see how ***we can tell our faith story to others.***

Has anyone heard of "sound bytes?" (*Allow responses*) It is when someone wants to play a part of a speech or something they said over the radio or TV. We are going to make sound bytes of the woman's story. Think of things that she might have said to the people after she met Jesus. (*Go down the line and record each person's sound byte, pausing between recordings so there is a break. After you have completed this, play the recording and discuss the various sound bytes.*) This activity helps us see that ***we can tell our faith story to others.***

Small Group Activity

Faith Story Pictures

Materials: Art paper, colored markers, pencils, tempera paints, various art supplies.

Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus. The Samaritan woman told the people she had met Jesus. What do you think can happen to people when we tell them our faith story? (*They can know Jesus.*) Let's use these art supplies and draw and paint pictures of these stories, and include your story because our story is also part of their story.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 9 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

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Faith Story

Ages

11-12

Small Group Lesson

Power Point

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3. What did the man ask Philip to do? (*Help him understand the Scriptures.*)
4. How do you feel when you don't understand the Bible? (*Allow responses.*)
5. Who did Philip tell the man about? (*Jesus, the One whom the prophecy in the book of Isaiah was describing.*)
6. How would you feel if you told someone about Jesus and they asked Him into his heart? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Communion Connection

Materials: Bibles, communion supplies.

Preparation: Have a special guest come in that has an interesting faith story the kids would enjoy. Use this outline to keep it simple and to the point: 1) Who is Jesus? (*The Son of God.*) 2) What did He come to do? (*Die on the cross for our sins.*) 3) What has He done for me? (*Answers may vary.*) 4) What does Jesus want all kids to know? (*Answers may vary.*) Give a time limit, and include some time for questions from the kids.

Today, we have a special guest. (*Introduce your guest and have him share. Allow time for kids to ask questions at the conclusion of your guest's faith story.*) Kids, that was great. Let's all extend our hands and pray for our guest. (*Pray for the guest, thanking God for him and open it up for any kids to pray.*)

One of the greatest stories of all in the Bible—to the Israelite people and for us—is how God freed His people from Egyptian slavery. Moses trusted God's promises and led the people out of Egypt. Before the people were freed, God told Moses to lead the people in a solemn ceremony called the Passover. The tenth plague against Egypt was coming soon, when God would kill the firstborn. To avoid the plague, God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, spread the blood of the lamb on frames of their doorways, quickly eat roasted lamb meal and be ready to leave Egypt early the

next morning. The angel bringing death on the first-borns would see blood on the doorways and “pass over” those houses. Every year after that first Passover, to all generations, the Israelites were to celebrate the Passover as a feast to the Lord.

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The Jesus Factor

“A lot of the Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus because the woman had said, “This man told me everything I have ever done.”

—John 4:39

Materials: Bible, white board.

Preparation: Write the following statement on a white board: Date I made a decision to follow Jesus _____. One cool thing God has done for me is _____. One thing I want to do for Him is _____. He answered when I prayed about _____.

Last week we looked at the story of a woman who was at a well and spoke with Jesus. Does anyone remember what happened? *(Allow responses.)* The woman spoke with Jesus and He told her about the “Living Water” He wanted to give her. The woman got so excited about Jesus that she ran back to her town and told everyone about Him. She didn’t have a Bible, she had never met Jesus before, but she had come to believe He was God’s Son. The people heard

her powerful faith story and got so excited they ran to meet Jesus. This woman’s faith story helps us see how ***we can tell our faith story to others.***

Some people may have some knowledge about the gospel, but still don’t believe in Jesus. They don’t believe the Bible to be true. Telling your personal faith story may be the only way someone like this will listen to you. No one can disprove what actually happened to you! They might mock Jesus, or mock you for believing in Jesus, but you know He is real because you know the Bible is true and because of what Jesus has done for you! That’s awesome if you really think about it. *(Have kids form pairs and tell their faith stories to their partners, using the statement on the white board as a guide.)*

Small Group Activity

Faith Story Journal

Materials: Blank journals or small notebooks, pens, markers, various art supplies.

(Provide journals or notebooks to kids, along with a variety of art supplies. Allow time to decorate journals.) We have been exploring how ***we can share our faith story with others.*** Journaling can help you do this. Take these with you and take time write your prayers, thoughts or questions to God. You can record things that happen to you and write down what you think God is saying to through these experiences. You can also keep track of who you are sharing your faith with and what responses you are seeing. Use a journal to keep close to God in every area of your life. As you grow older, you can look back on your earlier journal entries and see how your faith is growing!

Take-Home Challenge

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