

## TREK: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up—God's with You!—May, Week 2

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

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

**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. Countdown

### 2. Announcements

### 3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

- Host

#### Media

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game
- Theme Slide
- "What's on the Path? Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### 4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG: Transition Slide

### 5. CG: Word Video and CG: Transition Slide

### 6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- Pipe and drape for curtain
- Curtain that can go between pipe and drain
- 2 chairs
- 2 wigs
- 1 scroll (This can be a foot-wide length of butcher paper that is rolled up.)
- Set up a curtain at the front of the teaching area that splits the area in two. Make sure the audience can see the area on both sides of the curtain.
- Set up two chairs on the side where the Ethiopian official will be sitting.
- Have the props—two wigs and one scroll—ready on the table.

#### Media

- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

### 7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

## Bible Story Outline Week 2

Philip and the Man From Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

### SETTING UP THE STORY

- We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus had died, risen, gone back to heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit to live inside His followers.
- Today's story is about a follower of Jesus learning what it meant to have the Holy Spirit inside him, and another man who had a lot of questions about God.
- (Choose two volunteers to play Philip and an Ethiopian official. Give them wigs and a scroll. Position them on either side of a curtain on stage).
- The message of Jesus was spreading. One of the leaders in the early church was named Philip. (Kid playing Philip pretends to teach and help people).
- At the same time, a man from Ethiopia was traveling home in a chariot, reading the Scriptures. (Kid playing the Ethiopian official sits and pretends to read the scroll).

### PHILIP FOLLOWS GOD, EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY

- An angel spoke to Philip.
- Read: Acts 8:26 NIV. An angel said, "Go south to the desert road... that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
- (Kid playing Philip acts surprised but starts walking in place).
- That was all God told him. No explanation. Philip was busy doing good work for Jesus, but he followed God and took the next step.

### THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL HAS QUESTIONS AND DOESN'T GIVE UP

- While Philip was walking, he wasn't the only one traveling.
- Read: Acts 8:27-28 NIV
- Philip met an important Ethiopian official who was in charge of all the wealth of the queen of Ethiopia. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was now on his way home, reading the Book of Isaiah out loud in his chariot.
- (Kid playing the official pretends to read the scroll and look confused).
- He wanted to understand, but it didn't make sense. He had questions.
- As Philip walked, God spoke to him again.
- Read: Acts 8:29 NIV. The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot. Stay near it."
- Philip didn't know who was inside or why, but he followed God. (Kid playing Philip runs to stand next to the official).
- Read: Acts 8:30-31 NIV. Philip ran up and heard the man reading. "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip asked. The man replied, "How can I? I need someone to explain it to me," and invited Philip to sit with him.
- (Kid playing Philip sits in the other chair next to the official).
- The official admitted he didn't understand and asked for help.

## KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS

- The Scripture the official was reading was from Isaiah.
- Read: Acts 8:32-34 NIV.
- The passage was about someone led like a sheep to be killed, who did not open his mouth. The official asked Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?"
- This was a big question, and Philip knew the answer. (Kid playing Philip points to the scroll and starts teaching).
- Philip explained that Isaiah was talking about Jesus and shared the good news about Him.
- As they traveled, something happened that showed how ready the official was to follow Jesus.
- Read: Acts 8:36 NIV.
- They came to some water, and the official said, "Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?"
- The man didn't wait for every answer. He chose to follow Jesus.
- Philip baptized the official, and then something surprising happened.
- Read: Acts 8:39 NIV.
- When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official didn't see him again and went on his way full of joy.
- (Kid playing Philip moves to the other side of the curtain).
- The Ethiopian official kept traveling with joy, and Philip kept traveling, telling people everywhere about Jesus.
- (Thank and dismiss volunteers).

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- Let's remember what happened: An angel told Philip to go to the desert. God told him to go up to a chariot. Philip listened and told the Ethiopian official about Jesus. The official had questions, and when he heard the good news, he chose to become a follower of Jesus.
- Philip listened and followed God, even when he didn't have the full plan. The official was faithful to keep asking questions. We can do the same.
- **BL: Keep following God, even when you have questions.**

## Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 2

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

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

**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 NIRV

1. Countdown
2. Announcements
3. **CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)**

**AUDIO:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**SLIDE:** Theme

*(Host enters with energy and excitement.)*

*(Things to have ready: Game slide. Bottom Line slide.)*

**HOST:** “Hey, everyone! I’m really glad you’re here today. If this is your first time at [Name of Environment], welcome! I’m so happy you’re here. And if you’ve been coming for a while, I’m really glad you came back!

“We’re in Week Two of our series called ‘TREK.’ The full title of our series is, ‘TREK: Don’t Stop, Don’t Give Up—God’s with You!’ A trek is a long journey, and it’s the kind of journey where you don’t always know what’s ahead. Sometimes it’s exciting. Sometimes it’s confusing. And sometimes you wish you had a map that told you everything before you started. But most of the time, that’s not how a trek works.

“All month long, we’re talking about what it looks like to keep going on a journey with God, even when things don’t make total sense yet. And you know, that reminds me of something we all have in common: at some point, we all have questions. Questions about what’s happening. Questions about what we’re supposed to do next. Questions about God. And having questions doesn’t mean you’re doing something wrong. It just means you’re human. We’ll talk more about that later on.

“Today, we’re going to start with a game called ‘What’s on the Path?’ It’s going to feel a little bit like being on a trek—you won’t always know what’s coming next, but keep moving anyway!

**SLIDE:** *What’s on the Path? Title*

“We’re going on an imaginary trek together, friends! Here’s how it works: I’m going to describe different obstacles you might face on a journey, and when I say what it is, I want you to act it out right where you are. Sound good?

“Alright, everyone! Stand up, lace up your hiking boots, and put on your backpack—it’s time to climb!

**AUDIO:** Upbeat music

*(Quickly call out different trek-related activities for kids to act out. The pace should be fast and energetic. You can act out the activities alongside the kids and have them mirror you, or just have the kids make up their own actions for each activity as you call them out. Some examples are below.)*

“First, you come to a bridge that crosses a deep river. Now jump across the bridge!

*(Pause for a few seconds while the kids act out the activity.)*

“Next, you find a cave that’s really low. Duck down so you don’t hit your head!

*(Pause for a few seconds while the kids act out the activity.)*

“Now there’s a fallen tree in your way. Carefully step over it.

*(Pause for a few seconds while the kids act out the activity.)*

“Oh no! You’ve lost the trail! Turn around and head back the way you came.

“Now you need to build a tent to rest for the night.

“Time to sled down a snowy hill. Woohoo!

“Oh no! Run away from the bear!

“Time to stop and eat a protein bar!

“Duck! Sled! Jump! Dodge the tree! Unroll the sleeping bag!

“And ... time to go sleep under the stars.

*(As time allows, continue calling out more trek-related activities or start the game over from the beginning.)*

“Whew, that was a fun trek! Great job, everyone! You guys can take your seats.

“As we were doing that, some of those things probably felt easy, right? Some of them might have felt a little confusing. And some of you were probably wondering what was coming next.

“That’s kind of what a trek is like. You don’t always know what’s ahead. You don’t always know why something is happening. And you don’t always have all the answers. We’re going to be learning a lot about questions and answers today!

“In fact, that’s today’s Bottom Line! Let’s check it out.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Keep following God, even when you have questions. Say that with me!”

**KIDS AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** “Keep following God, even when you have questions.”

**HOST:** “Great job today, everyone! Now, let’s go find out more about how we can keep following God, even when we have questions!”

**4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG:Transition Slide**

**5. CG: Word Video and CG:Transition Slide**

**6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)**

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

*(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set up at the front of the teaching area so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Two wigs and one scroll on the table. Curtain set up at the front of the room. Two chairs set up on the side of the curtain where the Ethiopian official will sit.)*

## INTRODUCTION

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, friends! I’m so glad you’re here! I love learning about God with you! This month, we’ve been talking about a trek—keeping going even when the path isn’t clear. Our theme is, ‘TREK: Don’t Stop, Don’t Give Up—God’s with You!’ And today’s Bottom Line is this: [Bottom Line] Keep following God, even when you have questions.

“In today’s story, we’ll meet two people—one who didn’t understand what he was reading in the Bible, and one who followed God without knowing why. Both had questions! We’ve also been going through the Bible all year to learn more about God—because He wants to be close to us.

### **SLIDE: God’s Big Story**

“In the beginning, God made everything and wanted people to be close to Him. But sin broke that relationship. So God made a rescue plan. He chose a family, grew His people, rescued them, and gave them a home—but they kept turning away. Still, God promised a Rescuer. And then—Jesus came! He lived perfectly, died for our sin, and came back to life so we could be close to God again.

“Then Jesus went to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit. Now God lives inside His followers, guiding them and helping them do amazing things. And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story!”

## SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “We’re continuing our journey through the Bible! We’re at the part of the Bible where Jesus had died, rose from the dead, gone back to heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers. Today’s true story is about one of Jesus’ followers who was learning what it meant to have the Holy Spirit living inside of him. And the story is also about another man who had a lot of questions about God. To help us tell the story, I’m going to need a couple of volunteers. I need one volunteer to play a man named Philip. Raise your hand if you’d like to help!

*(Choose one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to the front of the room.)*

“And I need one more volunteer to play another man in the story who was an Ethiopian official. Raise your hand if you’d like to volunteer!

*(Choose one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to the front of the room.)*

“Thanks for helping me out today, friends!

*(Give both kids wigs and give the kid playing the Ethiopian official the scroll. Position the kids on both sides of the curtain—the kid playing the Ethiopian official should be on the side with the two chairs.)*

“Let’s dive in. This story happens after Jesus went to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit. People were traveling everywhere, and the message of Jesus was spreading. One church leader was named Philip.

*(Have the kid playing Philip pretend they are teaching and helping people.)*

“At the same time, another man was traveling on a long road.

*(Have the kid playing the Ethiopian official sit down in one of the chairs and pretend they are traveling along the road, reading the scroll.)*

“He was from Ethiopia and riding in a chariot as he went home. He was reading the Scriptures. And that’s where our story begins.”

### **PHILIP FOLLOWS GOD, EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY**

**STORYTELLER:** “One day, an angel spoke to Philip! Let's see what happened.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:26 NIV.)

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. “Go south to the desert road,” he said. “It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

*(Have the kid playing Philip act surprised, but start walking in place.)*

“That's all God said. He didn't explain why or what would happen next. Philip had been busy helping people, and things were going well. Now God told him to leave and go to a quiet road. But Philip obeyed. He didn't know the full plan—he just took the next step.”

### **THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL HAS QUESTIONS AND DOESN'T GIVE UP**

**STORYTELLER:** “While Philip walked on the desert road, he wasn't alone.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:27-28 NIV.)

So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position in charge of all the wealth of the Kandake. Kandake means queen of Ethiopia. This official had gone to Jerusalem to worship. On his way home he was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

“This man had traveled far to worship God and was heading home. As he rode, he read Scripture out loud.

*(Have the kid playing the Ethiopian official pretend to read the scroll and look confused.)*

“He wanted to understand, but he didn't. He had questions. As Philip walked, God spoke again.

( Open the Bible and read Acts 8:29 NIV.)

The Holy Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot. Stay near it.”

“Philip didn't know why—but he obeyed again.

*(Have the kid playing Philip go to the other side of the curtain and run to stand next to the kid playing the Ethiopian official.)*

(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:30-31 NIV.)

So Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you're reading?” Philip asked. “How can I?” he said. “I need someone to explain it to me.” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

*(Have the kid playing Philip sit down in the other chair next to the kid playing the Ethiopian official.)*

“The official was honest. He didn't pretend to understand. He asked for help and kept searching.”

### **KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS**

**STORYTELLER:** : “The man was reading from Isaiah. Here is the part of Scripture the official was reading. It says,

(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:32-34 NIV.)

“He was led like a sheep to be killed.

Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off,  
he did not open his mouth.

When he was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial.

Who can say anything about his children?

His life was cut off from the earth.”

The official said to Philip, “Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?” That was his big question—and Philip knew the answer!

*(Have the volunteer playing Philip point to the scroll and pretend to start teaching the Ethiopian official.)*

“Philip explained that Isaiah was talking about Jesus. He shared the good news about Jesus! As they traveled, something important happened.

*(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:36 NIV.)*

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official said, “Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?”

“He didn’t wait for every answer. He chose to follow Jesus. Philip baptized him, and then something surprising happened.

*(Open the Bible and read Acts 8:39 NIV.)*

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy.

*(Have the volunteer playing Philip move back to the other side of the curtain.)*

“The official kept going—full of joy. Philip kept traveling and telling others about Jesus. Thank you, volunteers! You did a great job! You can take your seats.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “That was an amazing story. Let’s review. An angel told Philip to go to the desert. Then God told him to go to a chariot. Inside was a man with questions about God’s Word. Philip told him about Jesus. Then he baptized him, and the man became a follower of Jesus. Philip obeyed God, even without knowing why. The Ethiopian official kept asking questions, even when he didn’t understand. And we can do the same. Here’s our Bottom Line—let’s say it together.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Keep following God, even when you have questions. Say that with me.”

*(Host enters and joins in.)*

**KIDS and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line]** “Keep following God, even when you have questions.”

**SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image**

“This week, we’re on the path of God’s Big Story, right after Pentecost! Today’s true Bible story shows that even though Jesus went back to heaven, He was still with His followers through the Holy Spirit, helping them do amazing things. (Gesture to timeline.)

“This week, we learned about Philip, a follower of Jesus. He had the Holy Spirit living in him, just like Jesus’ followers do today. The Holy Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot. Stay near it’ (Acts 8:29 NIV). Philip listened and helped the man inside learn about Jesus and His love.

“The same Holy Spirit lives in you. God is with you in every part of your life, and He can nudge you to do what He would do—like being kind or encouraging someone. God has always wanted to be close to people, and now His Spirit lives in you to guide you to be loving, joyful, honest, and kind.”

“God can meet you on your journey too. Sometimes you might feel confused or have questions about God or the Bible. That doesn't mean you're doing something wrong. Like the Ethiopian official, you can keep reading, listening, and asking questions. God isn't bothered by your questions—He loves them because they help you grow closer to Him.

“God can also help you keep going when you don't know what comes next. Following God means taking the next step, even without knowing everything. Philip didn't know why he went to the desert, but God used it to change someone's life. You can trust that God is with you and still working, even when things feel unclear. “The Holy Spirit will guide you throughout your life. It's okay if you don't understand everything. Since God is good, you can trust that He is leading you.

“Whatever questions you have—big or small—God sees you. He meets you where you are and walks with you as you keep going.”

**At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group**  
**7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)**

**AUDIO:** *Play calm music as the kids exit.*

**SLIDE:** *Theme*