



I Need to Know

Bible Story: I Need to Know (Philip and the Man from Ethiopia) • Acts 8:26-40

Bottom Line: Keep going even when you have questions.

Key Question: What questions do you have?

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)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Scoob, Artemis Fowl, etc.), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: "What's going on, everyone? Let's start off with one last sticky-themed game. But maybe let's not get SO sticky this week. How about a little sticky trivia? I call it: "Sticky Trivia" — super creative, I know."

CG: "Sticky Trivia" Title Slide

"But let's see how much you know about these sticky items that we find in real life. For this one, let's do Small Group versus Small Group! Here's how it works: I'll go through the questions. As a group, write down your answers to the questions. Once we go through all the questions, we'll review. The small group who knows the most about these sticky items wins!"

Pass out the pens and paper to each small group. Lead through the questions. Then, go through the answers. You can either use contestants from each group, all play where people raise hands/stand up, or all play where everyone shouts out an answer and you throw candy in the general direction of the right answer.

"Ready for the questions? Great, let's go!"

CG: Sticky Trivia Question and Answer Slides

1. How many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?
 1. 10 gallons
 2. 20 gallons
 3. 30 gallons
 4. **40 gallons (correct answer)**

2. 80% of the World's supply of syrup comes from what country?
 - a. The United States
 - b. **Canada (correct answer)**
 - c. Puerto Rico
 - d. Russia

3. Which food product was used as an early adhesive for gilding (the process of attaching metal to paper or plaster)?
 - a. Ketchup
 - b. Lemonade
 - c. **Egg whites (correct answer)**
 - d. Bacon grease

4. What feature is common among tree frogs?
 - a. The ribbit they make is in the key of G
 - b. Their green color that is exactly the same for all tree frogs
 - c. **The last bone in their toes is shaped like a claw (correct answer)**
 - d. They are all from South America

5. When making Gak at home, which ingredient do you NOT need?
 - a. Water
 - b. Borax
 - c. Glue
 - d. **Laundry detergent (correct answer)**

6. If you took all of the chewing gum sold in the US in one year and made it into one stick, how long would that stick be?
 - a. 10 miles
 - b. 30,500 miles
 - c. **3.5 million miles (correct answer)**
 - d. 350 million miles

7. What was the first bubble gum ever created in 1906?
 - a. Double Bubble
 - b. **Blibber-Blubber (correct answer)**
 - c. Doublemint
 - d. Extra

8. Honey bees must gather nectar from how many flowers to make one pound of honey?
 - a. 200
 - b. 2,000
 - c. 20,000
 - d. **2 million (correct answer)**

9. Which of the following is not a true fact about Silly Putty?
 - a. It was created by accident
 - b. **It was first used as a food (correct answer – this is not true)**
 - c. It has been to space
 - d. It's in the Smithsonian

10. 3M is the maker of Scotch Tape. What does 3M stand for?
 - a. Marvelous Masking Makers
 - b. **Minnesota Miners and Manufacturing (correct answer)**
 - c. Michigan Machines and Motors
 - d. Milligan Maskers of Maine

HOST: *(After game)* “So the winning small group is *[Name of Small Group]*! But really, nice job, everyone! You sure know your sticky substances! Now, let’s stand and worship together!”

Worship

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Let’s kick off this morning with a bit of a discussion. Hopefully, you’re sitting with your small group. Turn to you group and chat about this: was there ever a time when you had a question and you really should have asked the question but you didn’t? And because you didn’t, it resulted in a negative outcome? Maybe like something you didn’t understand in math, and because you didn’t ask a question, you didn’t do so well on the test that covered that material. Take a second and chat with your group!”

After a few minutes, bring everyone back together.

“Alright, let’s hear some of your examples!”

Have several kids share with the group and comment on them as you want.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “What is it about questions? Why don’t we ask them sometimes? Maybe it’s because we worry people will think we’re not smart enough. Or maybe we’re embarrassed that we have questions in the first place. And some of those are just the easy questions we might have in school or at a sports practice, but what about the harder questions? Questions about hard situations we find ourselves in, tragedies, or even questions we have about God? Sometimes we might wonder if it’s wrong to have those sorts of questions.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, here’s the thing. First of all, it’s never wrong to have questions about anything. Secondly, the writers of the Bible include all sorts of moments where people questioned God, wondering what God was doing in their lives. We can find comfort knowing that all sorts of people, including me, have had questions about God. Let’s head once again to the book of Acts. Remember, Acts tells the story of how the followers of Jesus took His message and began to spread it to the ends of the earth.”

“As we saw last week, the followers of Jesus were driven out of Jerusalem after the death of Stephen. But amazingly, as they went, they continued to spread the message of Jesus! One of those who shared Jesus’ story was a guy by the name of Philip. Philip was a leader in the early church, just like Stephen had been. Philip ended up in a place called Samaria. While he was there, he had a VERY interesting encounter.”

“(Read directly from Acts 8:26-27a, 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.” So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official.’”

“Now, what you need to notice is that this ENTIRE story happens because God directs Philip, through an angel, to travel down a certain road. In other words, God is up to something, and Philip is about to find out what. And it is on this road that he meets an Ethiopian official, who was in charge of the queen of Ethiopia’s

wealth. This is an important guy! But it's what he's doing, not his position, that will catch Philip's attention. The official had just come from Jerusalem when the story picks up . . ."

"(Read directly from Acts 28-29, NIV) 'On his way home he was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot. Stay near it.'"

"Again, you can see God directing Philip's steps. It is clear that God is doing something here. But what? Well, we'll have to keep reading. But first, what did the writer of Acts say the official was reading?"

Pause for responses.

"Right! It said he was reading the book of the prophet Isaiah. Now, at this point they didn't have Bibles the way we did, you know, a printed book with an Old and New Testament. Mostly what they had were . . ."

Pull out scroll.

"Scrolls. Smaller writings might fit on one scroll while bigger writings, like Isaiah, would have taken several scrolls. So most likely this official is reading something similar to this. Too bad we don't know what exactly he was reading. But wait! We actually do! More on that in a second. But first, let's keep reading."

"(Read directly from Acts 8:30, 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.'"

"Philip asked a simple question, but it's a question that made all the difference. 'Do you understand what you're reading?' Check out the official's response . . ."

"(Reads directly from Acts 8:31, NIV) "'How can I?" he said. "I need someone to explain it to me." So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.'"

“What an awesome moment! Philip happens to be on this road—okay an angel put him on this road. And he happens to go over to the chariot—actually the Holy Spirit told him to go over to the chariot. And he, a leader in the church and a follower of Jesus, finds a man who is struggling to understand what he is reading in the Scriptures and wishes there was someone who could help him. Could this be any more perfect!?”

“So what was he struggling with? What was he reading? Luke tells us right here in the book of Acts.”

“(Read from scroll directly from Acts 8:32-33, NIV) “Here is the part of Scripture the official was reading. It says, ‘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.’”

“Now, we know this is from Isaiah chapter 53, which is an important prophecy that speaks of a Servant who would come and suffer on behalf of his people. Sound familiar? But this passage has the official stumped. In other words, he has questions.”

Point to the comment bubbles on the scroll.

“What question does he have. Here it is . . .”

“(Read off of comment bubble – Acts 8:35, NIV) ‘Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?’”

“The official reads about someone being led like a lamb to the slaughter and being treated badly even though he didn’t say anything. And his question is who is the prophet talking about? Who is the one being treated so badly? Who is going to be killed like a lamb?”

“Let me ask YOU. Who does it sound like he is talking about?”

Pause for responses.

“You got it. And check out Philip’s response. *(Read directly from Acts 8:35, NIV)* ‘Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus.’”

“Philip took the man’s question seriously and answered his question by showing him the good news that Jesus was the one that Scripture was pointing to! He was the one who came to serve and to suffer but later on would be raised to life, as it says later on in that same chapter!”

“The man immediately responded to what he had heard by asking to be baptized. They literally pulled the chariot over and Philip baptized him in some water on the side of the road. And immediately, the Spirit led Philip on to another city.”

“That’s pretty incredible, right? *(Holding up scroll)* Now, my guess is in that moment the official didn’t get every single one of his questions answered *(pointing to comment bubbles)*. But that’s okay. He got the MOST important question answered, and that was enough to lead him to a place where he was able to trust Jesus.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “One of the mistakes we can make is to think that, before we come to Jesus, we have to have all our questions answered. But this story helps us see that’s not the case. If we are growing and moving forward in our faith, the truth is that we will have new questions along the way, and like we’ve already said, this is okay!”

“But, when you do have questions, it’s important to know where to go with them. That’s one of the reasons I’m so glad you are here. We hope that you find this is a safe place to ask your questions and to know that nobody will laugh at you or think that you are silly. Maybe you feel like the official sometimes and you have *(pointing to the comment bubbles)* a bunch of questions like these. When that happens, find people who are further down the road than you in following Jesus who you can trust with those questions.”

“But sometimes you might get to be the Philip. You might find God leading you to talk with your friends at school or on your sports team or in the play, and maybe the conversation will turn to talking about Jesus. How cool would that be if YOU could be the one who could help others with THEIR questions? Maybe you could be their Philip, there when they say, ‘I need someone to explain it to me.’”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this question. Actually, it’s a question ABOUT questions. Check it out.

CG: Key Question Slide

“What questions do you have?” You’ll get a chance to share these questions with your Small Group. Let’s get the ball rolling about the questions we have so that we get comfortable asking them to others! The most important thing to remember is that God is bigger than your questions. They don’t surprise God. They don’t make God angry. God will meet you in your questions and help you find people in your life who will help you find answers to them or be okay with the fact that some questions actually don’t have answers. Before we head to Small Group, let’s pray and thank God for being so trustworthy and big enough to handle our questions. Let’s pray.”