



## 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.

**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.*

#### Opener

**HOST:** "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here with us today in [your environment's name]. My name is [your name], and we are definitely going to have some fun together!"

“All month we’ve been talking about what it means to have determination.

**“Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.**

“There are lots of times in life when we can feel stuck. We get frustrated or annoyed; we feel like giving up instead of finishing what we’re supposed to do. In those times, God can help us find determination. He can help us get UNstuck!

“I’ve got one more super-fun, sticky game for us to play today. It’s an ‘all play’ that I like to call ‘Shake It Off!’

“Go ahead and stand up. For this game, each person in the room gets one sticky note. Your Leaders will hand them out.

*Give a pad of sticky notes to each Small Group Leader, and give the Leaders some time to pass out one sticky note per kid. (The Leaders should play, too.)*

“As you get your sticky note, go ahead and stick it on your shirt. When you have one, raise your hand.

*Wait until all hands are raised.*

“All right—good. You can put your hands down. I see that all of you now have a sticky note on your shirt, which is perfect. When I say, ‘Go,’ the music will start, and you’ll DANCE until you shake it off! I’ll play, too. (*Stick a sticky note on your shirt.*) Once your sticky note falls off, you can have a seat. Let’s try it! Ready, set, go!

*Dance around the room, giving commentary and encouraging the kids. This isn't a competition—just a fun game everyone can play. If it goes really quickly and everyone's sticky notes fall after just a few seconds, you can play multiple rounds (as time allows).*

“Wow—great dancing, everyone! That was so fun! Let's keep those moves going as we sing and praise God together.”

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

## **Worship**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hello, everyone! Today we're picking up God's Big Story with a man named Philip.

*Stand behind the Philip costume on the clothesline.*

“The church was growing quickly after people heard that Jesus died and came back to life. Philip had a job just like Stephen—the man we talked about last week. He had been chosen to help new believers who needed food or special care.

*Move back to center stage.*

“Unfortunately, after Stephen was killed, the religious leaders became even more bold in going after people who followed Jesus. They were led by a young man named Saul. Saul was known for the terrible way he treated followers of Jesus.

“Because of this, many of the new believers left Jerusalem and scattered. But everywhere they went, they shared the story of Jesus with the people they met.”

### THE ANGEL'S DIRECTIONS

*Move behind the Philip costume.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Philip traveled to a town in Samaria, where he told everyone about Jesus. He also made sick people well through God’s power.

*Move behind the angel costume.*

“But then an angel appeared to Philip and told him to go.

*Open the Bible to Acts 8:26 (NirV) and read.*

“Go south to the desert road,” [the angel] said. “It’s the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (NirV)

*Move behind the Philip costume. Start walking in place.*

“So Philip started on his journey.

*Move behind the Ethiopian official costume. Keep walking in place.*

“On the way, he met an Ethiopian official. This man had traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship God. On his way home, the official was sitting in his chariot, reading some of the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

## **RACING A CHARIOT**

*Move behind the Philip costume. Keep walking in place.*

**STORYTELLER:** “God's Spirit told Philip to go to the chariot and stay near it. (*Look toward the Ethiopian official costume.*) Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah's words. He asked the man if he understood what he was reading.

*Move behind the Ethiopian official costume. Keep walking in place, now looking toward the Philip costume.*

“The official said he needed someone to explain it to him. He invited Philip to sit with him. He shared the words of Isaiah that he was reading.

*Open the Bible to Acts 8:32-33 (NIRV) and read.*

*“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 Ethiopian official asked Philip who Isaiah was talking about.

*Move behind the Philip costume. Keep walking in place.*

“Philip started with that Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus—the One God had sent to rescue us!”

## **DISAPPEARING PHILIP**

**STORYTELLER:** “As they traveled along the road, they came to a body of water.

*Move behind the Ethiopian official costume. Keep walking in place.*

"The official was like, 'I know—I could get baptized!' He gave orders to stop the chariot.

*Dramatically stop walking in place.*

"Philip baptized him in the water.

*If possible, dump the small bucket of water on yourself.  
(Remember to take your microphone off first.)*

*(Back on microphone.)* "Okay—I'm sure it didn't look like *that*. But you get the idea. When they came up out of the water, God's Spirit took Philip away.

*Take the Philip costume off the clothesline and place it out of sight.*

*Stand behind the Ethiopian official costume again.*

"The official didn't see Philip again, but he went on his way, full of joy. We can read in the Bible that Philip was seen next in the town of Azotus.

*Put the Philip costume back on the clothesline and stand behind it.*

"He continued to travel around and tell people about Jesus."

*Move up to center stage to wrap up the story.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Both Philip and the Ethiopian official had continued to be faithful and look for God’s plan—even when they couldn’t see the full picture. And the story of Jesus continued to spread across the world!

“Do you think Philip might have had some questions when the angel showed up and told him to go on a trip? *(Pause.)* Yep. He probably did. But he kept going anyway. The Ethiopian official was reading the words of the prophet Isaiah, and he didn’t understand who he was reading about. Do you think he had questions? *(Pause.)* You bet he did! But he asked questions to try to find the answers he needed.

“We all have questions from time to time. With determination, we can keep going—even when we don’t fully understand. Here’s what we need to remember:

**[Bottom Line]** “Keep going even when you have questions.

“Let’s pray.”

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, there are so many times when we have questions and we’re not sure about the answers. When that happens, help us to trust You. Help us to be brave enough to ask questions so we can try to understand—just like the Ethiopian official did. Help us to keep going even when we can’t see the whole picture. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### Closer

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

**HOST:** “The man from Ethiopia didn't understand what he was reading when he was riding in his chariot. But he didn't stop reading. He didn't stop asking questions, either. He asked Philip to help him understand.

“It turns out the man was reading words from Isaiah that told about the Savior who was to come. Back in December, we talked about Isaiah and his prophecy that God would send a Savior.

*This would be a great time to point to the picture of Isaiah from December Week 1, if you have a timeline posted in your room.*

“Jesus was the Savior God had promised! (*Point to Jesus on the timeline.*) Many years later, Philip would use Isaiah's words to help the Ethiopian official understand—and sure enough, the official wanted to follow Jesus, too!

“We can do this—just like the man from Ethiopia:

**[Bottom Line]** “Keep going even when you have questions.

“Don't be afraid to ask questions about God. After all, ALL of us have questions from time to time. God sees things that we can't see. He KNOWS things that we can't always understand. When you try to understand something about God for yourself, you ALWAYS **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

“If you don't understand, ask someone. Ask a parent or grandparent, your Small Group Leader, or someone else you know who follows God. Whenever you have questions, don't keep them to yourself. God has put lots of people in your life who can help you grow in your relationship with Him.

“I know a group of people who can definitely help you grow and help you talk through your questions. It's your small group! Have fun in group; I'll see you later!”



*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*