

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS STUDY

CHILDREN

Materials:

Printed bingo cards (each card should have a grid of 5x5 squares, with each square containing a different name)
Markers or pencils for each player
Bibles
Brown butcher paper or parchment paper for scrolls
Magic Markers
Dowel rods
Tacky glue
Computer and/or TV to play GBO
Music Video

Instructions:

Hand out the bingo cards and markers or pencils to each player. Explain that the goal of the game is to fill up the entire bingo card by finding people in the class who match the names on the squares. Invite the players to walk around the room and introduce themselves to each other. When they find someone whose name matches one of the squares on their card, they should write that person's name in the square and continue to look for more matches. The first player to fill up their entire bingo card wins the game.

Tell the story of Philip and the Man from Ethiopia.

In Acts 8, an angel went to Philip and told him to go south to Gaza, which is the desert. Philip went and saw a eunuch from Ethiopia. He was responsible for all the queen's money and had a lot of power in Ethiopia.

The eunuch had been to Jerusalem to worship. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip ran to him and heard him reading from the scrolls. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The

man replied, "How can I understand it if no one explains it to me?"

The eunuch invited Philip into the chariot. So, Philip sat down with him and taught him about Jesus. They came down the road, and the eunuch saw water. The eunuch said to Philip "Here is water, what is stopping me from being baptized?" He wanted to be baptized right away!

Philip told him that if he believes in Jesus, he could be baptized. The eunuch said he believed. They stopped the chariot, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. He made the decision because he wanted to obey Jesus.

Ask:

What did Philip need to meet the Ethiopian man and tell him about Jesus? Possible answers: understanding the gospel, courage to tell the story, and the ability to be kind to the man.

Can you share a time when you have been confused about something you learned or read? Allow the kids to share their story.

Mime the Story:

Divide your group into two or three smaller groups. Invite them to work together to create a mime of the story. In other words, they should do the actions of the story without using any words. You could suggest that one person could be the Ethiopian man, another could be Philip, and the others could be the horses, the water, or the scroll. Give your kids some time to practice their mime, and then allow them time to show it to the other groups.

Tip: Summarize the story again before the activities so they can remember all that happened.

Share the connections of the Bible story to the Georgia Barnette Offering.

Tell the story of Mrs. B. from Houma Louisiana.

Mrs. B is a lady who lives in Houma, Louisiana. Things changed in a hurry for Mrs. B when hurricane Ida passed through her town and destroyed her home. It was a terrible time! After the hurricane, she did not have a place to live, but help was on the way. People she did not know came to her town and helped her rebuild her house. Because we gave through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering and people served in disaster relief, she was able to experience a new start.

This is why we have the missions offering. It helps people all over Louisiana. Just like the man from Ethiopia, Mrs. B. was looking for a spiritual home, and because of the kindness and generosity of people in our Baptist churches, she found a place to belong. This is why we give through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

Craft Activity: Create a Scroll

Supplies:

Parchment paper or brown butcher paper
Dowel rods
Tacky glue
Markers

Lead your kids to create their own scrolls. Tell the kids the Bible is the story of how God blessed people throughout history. Mention that God's story has been completed in the Bible, but God still tells His story through our lives as He blesses us. Ask your group how God has blessed them over the past year. Say that, even though our stories will not enter the Bible, our stories are important to God. Lead your

group in creating their own scroll, like the one the man from Ethiopia used to read the Bible. Write on the scroll some of the ways God blesses them. They can use words or pictures to decorate their scroll.

Mention that the Bible teaches us to do what Philip did that day when he led the Ethiopian man to Jesus. Say that the main purpose of the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions offering is to give people an opportunity to know Jesus.

Explain the plan of salvation:

The Bible teaches us that everyone has sinned. We need to confess our sins and accept God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ his son.

Read Romans 10:9

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (NLT)

As the Bible Study leader, share the story of how you came to follow Jesus.

Optional Ending: Share the music video for this year's Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

Conclude the group meeting with prayer.

