

Week 3 - A Witness Reads God's Word

Read Acts 8:26-40 (Philip & the Ethiopian)

I have a question to ask and I want you to be honest...*How often do you read your Bible?*

Take a minute to share your answer with your family.

One of the ways we can be a witness for Jesus is by reading our Bibles. And why is that important? Because in order for us to talk about Jesus to others, we have to know about Him. And we learn all about Him and what He did for us by reading our Bible.

One disciple of Jesus that helped tell others about Him was Philip. Our Bible story found in Acts 8 tells the story of Philip and his time spent with an Ethiopian eunuch (an important official in charge of all the money). An angel tells Philip to go down a desert road. On this road he encounters the eunuch who is reading the Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. As Philip approaches him, he asks him if he understands what he is reading. The eunuch then replies by saying, "*How can I unless someone explains it to me?*" (Acts 8:31). The eunuch was reading God's Word, but he wasn't fully understanding what he was reading. So, Philip climbs into the eunuch's chariot and begins explaining everything to him. Philip shared with him the good news of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever read the Bible and not understood what you were reading? I think we can all raise our hands on that one and confess that we have! Sometimes the Bible is hard to understand, but I am thankful for pastors, Sunday school teachers, parents, and others who can help me by explaining what it means. The more we read the Bible, ask questions, and pray, the more we will learn.

I always say that it doesn't matter if you've read the entire Bible 10 times, you will always learn something new about God when you open and study His Word. I love when I read a passage of Scripture and a lightbulb goes off in my head and I understand what it says. I love how God shows me the Scriptures I need to read right at the time I need to hear what He's saying in it. And then I also love being able to go out and teach and share with others what I have learned. I love to share about all that God has taught me!

So back to our original question...if you answered that you don't read your Bible very much, I challenge you to set aside time each day to spend reading. Pick a book of the Bible, read a chapter a day, and soak up all you can about the amazing God we love and serve. And then...go out and be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus.

Loving God, help me to spend time with You more each day by reading Your Word. Help me to understand it and then to go out and share it with others. Amen.

Week 3 – Family Game

Launch God's Word

Supplies Needed: *finger rocket launchers (found on Amazon), Sharpie*

A witness for Jesus needs to know God's Word so they can go out and share it!

Today we are going to practice "launching" God's Word! On a finger rocket launcher, write the Bible verse from Matthew 28:19: *"Go and make disciples of all nations."*

Next, launch the rocket! And when you do, shout out the Matthew 28:19 Bible verse. You can also write on the rocket other favorite Bible verses that you love. And practice shouting out those Bible verses, too. The more you know God's Word, the more you will share it with others.

Week 3 – Family Craft

Bible Verse Rockets

Supplies Needed: *empty plastic soda or water bottle (use mini, regular, or 2-liter), acrylic paint, extra bottle caps, colored cardstock, scissors, hot glue gun (parent use only)*

Blast off into the new year by creating your own Bible Verse rocket! This craft will help children remember to be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus by sharing His Word with others.

Take an empty plastic soda bottle (choose whatever size bottle your child would like to use) and fill it with the paint color of your choice. Pour in enough paint to coat the inside of the bottle. Put the cap back on the bottle and shake the bottle till the inside is fully coated with paint.

Next, take any extra bottle caps you have (paint them if you like) and hot glue them to the outsides of the bottle. Then cut 2 wings for your rocket using cardstock. Write on the wings the Bible verse from Week 1 from Matthew 28:19 "*Go and make disciples of all nations.*" Then fold a small portion of each wing down and glue that part to the outside of the bottle (one wing on each side of the bottle).

Have fun playing with your Bible Verse Rocket and remember to blast off and be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus!

Week 3 – Family Snack

Fruit Rockets

Cantaloupe or Pineapple

Marshmallows (regular size)

Strawberries

Skewers

Cut cantaloupe or pineapple to look like the base of a rocket. For the strawberry, cut off the top and then cut into thirds.

Take a skewer and place fruit onto it in this order: cantaloupe, strawberry, marshmallow, strawberry, marshmallow, strawberry (tip of strawberry should be at the top).

Eat and enjoy your fruit rockets!