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Children Bible Studies

By Libby Quigg

# Camp Theme Verse

“I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6a NIrV).

# Camp Theme Verse Introduction

In Psalm 23, David paints us a picture of a loving Lord. He is a Good Shepherd, giving His sheep everything they need—time to rest, time to eat, time to drink, time to walk, and time to be comforted. The Lord’s goodness is always following the ones He loves. And that goodness and love never stops. It is All Day, Every Day.

And that same love compels us—All Day, Every Day—to live for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14). Living for Christ changes everything. Because you are a child of God, you see the Lord differently. You also see people differently. So, you desire to be a loving friend. You desire to do good for others. You desire to cheerfully give.

## Day 1: Children of God

**Bible Study**: Philip shares the good news and baptizes an Ethiopian man into God’s family.

**Quiet Time:** I am a child of God.

## Day 2: Be a Friend

**Bible Study**: A Shunammite woman is a friend to Elisha.

**Quiet Time:** I make friends.

## Day 3: Be a Faithful Follower

**Bible Study**: Being a faithful follower is like planting and gathering crops.

**Quiet Time:** I am a faithful follower of Jesus.

## Day 4: Be a Cheerful Giver

**Bible Study**: Jesus feeds 5,000 people after a boy gives his lunch.

**Quiet Time:** I give cheerfully.

# Nathan Dorrell, our camp pastor, will share the Day 1 Bible Study will be the Sunday evening worship time. Group leaders do not need to prepare this lesson. It is here for review and to use as/if you chose during the week or reference for a Sunday evening devotional.

# Sunday Day 1 Bible Study: Children of God

**Scripture:** Acts 8:26–40

**Daily Memory Verse:** “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God by believing in Christ” (Galatians 3:26 NIrV).

**Bible Background (**by Clyde Morgan)

The Bible does not tell us a lot about the man named Phillip whom God told through an angel to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch. However, the context of the book of Acts reveals that he was one of the seven chosen by the church to see to the needs of the widows and orphans. The church was instructed by the apostles to choose seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom to serve in this need. (Acts 6:1-7)

Shortly after the seven were chosen, Stephen who was one of the seven, was stoned to death because of his witness for Jesus. (Acts 6:8 – 7:59) On the day this happened the Christians came under a great persecution from the Jewish leaders and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria but they all preached the word wherever they went. (Acts 8:1)

Phillip was among those who were scattered, and he went to Samaria where he proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah with great success and brought great joy to that city. (Acts 8:4-8) Phillip was in Samaria when the angel of God sent him to the Ethiopian eunuch. After Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch God’s Spirit sent Phillip to Azotus and he preached the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. (Acts 26:40)

Phillip is mentioned again in Acts 21:8 where Luke records that Paul and his company stayed at the home of Phillip the evangelists at Caesarea, “one of the Seven”. He also states that Phillip had four unmarried daughters who prophesied, (Acts 21:9) (For a reference to Phillip’s daughters prophesying see Acts 2;17-21.)

Phillip is a great example of a man who allowed God’s Spirit to lead him and give him wisdom. He was able to minister and witness to others for God. Phillip’s influence led many people to follow Jesus. It also is seen the lives of his four daughters who also were witnesses for Jesus.

**Things to Gather:**

* Camp Theme Verse Poster
* Memory Verse Poster 1
* Printable Item 1a
* colored paper
* camera
* masking tape

**Things to Do:**

* Make sure every camper has a Bible.
* Make copies of “Memory Verse Relay” (Printable Item 1a) on different colored paper. Cut them apart.

**Introductory Game**

1. Challenge campers to work together to recreate a life-size replica of a person riding in a chariot being pulled by horses using only themselves (no props). Allow time to come up with a design and assign who will take different shapes. When they are ready, campers will need to hold their pose for 10 seconds. Remember to take a photo!
2. Say: *Today’s Bible story takes place in a chariot. Let’s look at Acts 8:26–40 together. Find the New Testament. The first four New Testament books are stories about Jesus. The next book is Acts. That is what we will be reading today. Acts tells the story of how the people who followed Jesus shared the good news around the world.*

**Bible Study**

1. Introduce Philip using the Bible Background information provided.
2. Say: *This story has some awesome moments. As we read, I want you to listen for those moments. Join me in saying together, “That’s awesome!”*
3. Read Acts 8:26. Say: *An angel speaks to Philip? “That’s awesome!”*
4. Read Acts 8:27–29. Say: *Philip overhears a man inside a fancy Ethiopian chariot reading the Scriptures? An Ethiopian man reading aloud from the Hebrew Bible and trying to understand what it means? “That’s awesome!”*
5. Read Acts 8:30–35. Say: *Philip has the opportunity to share the good news! “That’s awesome!”*
6. Read Acts 8:36–38. Say: *The man understands and believes in Jesus. “That’s awesome!”*
7. Read Acts 8:39–40. Say: *In a twist of events, Philip breaks laws of time and space. Of course, the Holy Spirit can do that! Wow! “That’s awesome!”*
8. Explain that the people who believe in Christ become part of God’s family. Baptism is a symbol of a person’s faith in Christ. Baptism demonstrates that they want to obey God and join His family. In God’s family, because of Christ Jesus, believers are children of God.

**Memory Verse Challenge**

1. Display Memory Verse Poster 1. Read it together.
2. Introduce a word-relay game. Direct campers to sit at one end of your meeting space and divide into relay teams of seven campers. (If you do not have enough campers for teams of seven, divide into even teams.) Give each relay team one color set of the memory verse (from Printable Item 1a) and have masking tape available.
3. Explain the rules of the game: Each team must assemble their memory verse in relay fashion. Each player will need to collect tape and display a piece of the verse on a designated focal wall/spot across the room from the starting point. The player will then tag the next player to add their piece. Teams will continue the relay until the verse is assembled, and then they must recite it together.
4. Give a countdown and signal them to begin the relay. Cheer each other on until all teams have completed the activity.

**Application Activity**

1. Say: *In the story, the man in the chariot said to Philip, “Tell me, please.” And Philip shared the good news about Jesus. The good news is the story of Jesus, from heaven to earth, from death to life. The good news can be summarized very simply in John 3:16 (NIrV): “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”*
2. Direct campers to find a partner. Lead them to take turns conversing like Philip and the man. One partner will say, “Tell me, please.” The other will answer by sharing the good news of Jesus in their own words.
3. Switch up partners and repeat.

**Prayer**

Pray: *Lord God, we pray for any campers who are hearing the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time like the Ethiopian man in the chariot. We pray that they will come to understand how much You love them and want them to be part of Your family. For those of us who are believers—children of God—You have inspired us to be like Philip and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others at every opportunity,* All Day, Every Day*. Amen.*

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# Monday - Day 2 Bible Study: Be a Friend

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 4:8–11

**Daily Memory Verse:** “A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes” (Proverbs 17:17 NIrV).

**Bible Background**

A rich woman who lived in Shunem befriended the prophet Elisha. She served him a meal every time he passed through her town. But she wanted to do more. She offered Elisha a fully furnished, comfortable room to use whenever he would visit.

A lot of wonderful things happened to the woman because of her friendship with Elisha. Elisha wanted to do something to bless her life because she worked so hard to bless him. So, he prophesied over her the most wonderful news—that she would become a mother to a baby boy. And it happened!

But trouble came. The woman’s little boy was helping his father on the farm when he got a headache and died. His mother laid him down in Elisha’s room. She rode a donkey to find Elisha. When she found him and brought him to her home, Elisha performed a miracle. The boy woke up sneezing seven times.

And then trouble came again. Elisha warned the woman to leave her home for seven years because there would be a food shortage. So, she left and waited to return. Upon her return, she went to the king to request her home and land be returned to her. Because she was the mother of the son Elisha had brought back to life, she was given everything that belonged to her. She even received the profits from her land in her absence.

*(Source: 2 Kings 4:8–36, 8:1–6)*

**Things to Gather:**

* Camp Theme Verse Poster
* Memory Verse Poster 2
* Printable Item 2a
* masking tape
* sleeping bag
* 5-gallon bucket
* camp chair
* LED lantern
* trail mix
* pens/pencils

**Things to Do:**

* Using masking tape, section off an area of the floor the size of a small room.
* Print enough copies of “Be a Friend Bookmark” (Printable Item 2a) for each camper to have one. (There are six per page.) Cut them apart to hand out.

**Introductory Game**

1. Provide these props: sleeping bag, bucket (upside down for a table), camping chair, and LED lantern. Challenge campers to arrange them in a cozy manner to fit in the taped-off room.
2. Say: *Today’s Bible story is about friendship. It is a friendship that started with a meal and a cozy guest room. When trouble came along, a loving friend did all he could to bless his friend.*

**Bible Study**

1. Have campers wash or sanitize their hands before serving food in this activity.
2. Ask: *Does anyone have a best friend? What is it that you like the most about your friend? What are some things that you like to do with your friend?*
3. Direct campers to 2 Kings in the Old Testament. Explain that the Old Testament contains the stories that happened before Jesus came to earth. It covers many years and a lot of stories. But this part of the Bible records the adventures of God’s prophet Elisha. A *prophet* is someone God chooses to be His messenger.
4. Encourage campers to find 2 Kings, chapter 4. Point out that the chapter number is one of the big numbers on the page. Then, ask them to find verse 8, which is a little number on the page.
5. Read 2 Kings 4:8–11. Stop to point out the room arrangement they created as you read.
6. Say: *I think there is one more part of this story that we* *should reenact together. Friendship can also grow when food is involved.* Share trail mix with campers.
7. Explain that there is more to this friendship story. The woman in Shunem went through some troubling times. Use the Bible Background to share more of her story.

**Memory Verse Challenge**

1. Display Memory Verse Poster 2. Read it together.
2. Divide into groups of 5–10 campers. Ask each group to form a tight circle.
3. Instruct the members of each group to reach their left hands across the circle and grab another hand in the group. Then, say together, “A friend loves at all times.” Next, ask them to do the same with their right hands, making sure not to grab the same person’s hand. Say together, “They are there to help when trouble comes.”
4. Campers must work together to untangle the human knot without letting go of each other’s hands. When they have accomplished this task, say together, “Proverbs 17:17! All Day, Every Day!”

**Application Activity**

1. Give each camper a “Be a Friend Bookmark” and something to write with. Invite campers to brainstorm some ideas for growing their friendships with others. Have them write some of their favorite ideas on their bookmark. They may find inspiration from the woman in Shunem, who invited a friend over for a meal. Encourage them to share their ideas for growing some of their friendships at camp (sitting next to a new friend during meals, sharing a snack during free time, etc.) Also, encourage them to think about ideas for beyond camp (sharing ice pops with new friends at a local park, inviting a new neighbor over for dinner, etc.).
2. Say: *Now think about someone who has been a good friend to you. How have they blessed your life through friendship?* Share your own story of friendship.

**Prayer**

Pray: *Father God, Thank You for the friends in my life. Help me to be a friend to others, especially when trouble comes into their lives. May I be like Elisha and the Shunammite woman and bless my friends. Amen.*

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# Tuesday - Day 3 Bible Study: Be a Faithful Follower

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:7–10

**Daily Memory Verse:** “Don’t forget to do good. Don’t forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings” (Hebrews 13:16 NIrV).

**Bible Background**

Farming is no easy task, but the basic principle is that seeds plus healthy soil, sunlight, water, and time reap a good harvest. In Scripture, farming is a popular teaching illustration. The Apostle Paul used this illustration when he wrote to the church at Galatia. He compared planting seeds to doing good by being faithful. This is a paraphrase of what he said:

“Plant seeds at the direction of the Holy Spirit. Trust God. Seek to please only Him.

Plant seeds and wait for the right time. Don’t give up. Don’t get tired. The harvest will come.

Plant seeds everywhere. But plant even more seeds among God’s family of believers.”

There is also a word of caution: Even non-believers can plant seeds. Anyone can do good for someone else, but the result will not be the same. Doing good by being faithful will bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and planting these seeds will reap eternal life.

**Things to Gather:**

* Camp Theme Verse Poster
* Memory Verse Poster 3
* Printable Item 3a
* minute timer
* three balloons
* 50 plastic cups
* deck of cards
* cookies
* gift box/bag with label
* paper
* pencils/pens
* praise music and music player

**Things to Do:**

* Inflate the three balloons.
* Shuffle the deck of cards.
* Write *To: God, From: Me* on the label of the gift box/bag.

**Introductory Game**

1. Play “Minute-to-Win-It.”Choose volunteers for each of the following tasks. Each volunteer must try to complete their task in under one minute.

* *Balloons*: Keep three balloons in the air. Don’t let them touch the floor.
* *Cups*: Build a pyramid using the cups.
* *Cards*: Arrange the cards by suit (hearts, diamonds, spades, clubs) in order.
* *Cookie*: Place a cookie on your forehead. Take a bite without using your hands.

1. Point out that life can feel very task-oriented at times: Go to school. Practice soccer. Do homework. Do chores. Play outside. Eat food. Clean up. Brush teeth. Go to sleep. Say: *All these tasks are important, but it is more important to be faithful and do good for others.* *Let’s look together at what the Bible says about being faithful.*

**Memory Verse Challenge**

1. Display Memory Verse Poster 3. Read it together.
2. Say: *We often hear the word “offering” at church. This word means “gift.” Hebrews 13:16 tells us that doing good and sharing with others pleases God, like we are giving Him a gift with our words and actions.*
3. Hold up the gift box/bag with *To: God, From: Me* on the label as a visual aide.

**Bible Study**

1. Direct campers to find Galatians in their Bibles. Point out that the New Testament books that come after the four Gospels are letters written from the disciples to churches and pastors. These letters help us understand how to apply God’s Word to our lives All Day, Every Day.
2. Read Galatians 6:7–10. Use the Bible Background to help explain it.
3. Say: *We are going to read together some stories about campers who are planting good by being faithful.*
4. Allow volunteers to take turns reading the stories on “Planting Good” (Printable Item 3a).

**Application Activity**

1. Say: *I want you to think back on all the time you’ve spent at camp so far. What is something good that you have done? What is something you have shared with someone else? Write it down. Then, we will add these things to our offering gift box to God.*
2. Distribute the paper and pens/pencils. Play praise music while campers think and write.

**Prayer**

Pray: *God, we praise You for Your goodness. You are so good. You are so good to us. May we be like the planter who harvests eternal life. Help us do good to everyone, but especially those who need to know Jesus. Please use our service to others as a way to glorify you and proclaim your name to the people we meet. Amen.*

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# Wednesday - Day 4 Bible Study: Be a Cheerful Giver

**Scripture:** John 6:5–14

**Daily Memory Verse:** “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7d NIrV).

**Bible Background**

A hungry crowd. A boy’s lunch of five barley bread rolls and two small fish. Jesus did a math miracle. Five thousand people were fed. Twelve baskets of leftovers remained. This miracle speaks to our stomachs. Because we have all been hungry, we can all relate to the crowd gathered around Jesus.

In this story, Jesus took a boy’s lunch and multiplied it. This is how giving works in the kingdom of God. Being a cheerful giver creates a snowball effect. God showers more and more blessings. The cheerful giver can do more and more good. The result is that those who need those gifts and receive them will give thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:6–14).

Remember the disciple, Philip? Philip made a cameo appearance in the story in John 6:6–7. Remember that Philip knew Jesus was the Promised One of the Old Testament; he knew He was the Savior at first sight! Because of this miracle, all those well-fed people saw what Philip saw: “This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world” (John 6:14 NIrV).

**Things to Gather:**

* Camp Theme Verse Poster
* Memory Verse Poster 4
* Printable Item 4a
* candy prizes
* two sardines in small ziplock bag
* five bread rolls in large ziplock bag
* 12 red oval fast food baskets or small paper sacks
* music and music player

**Things to Do:**

* Make sure the sardines and rolls are zipped up tight in the ziplock bags.
* Make copies of “Scavenger Hunt” (Printable Item 4a). Feel free to add additional items that are specific to your campground.
* Be ready to play the song “I Will Offer Up My Life”by Matt Redman.

**Introductory Game**

1. Divide campers into groups. Distribute a copy of “Scavenger Hunt” (Printable Item 4a) to each group. They will only be able to use what they brought with them to check off items on the list. Reward each group with a candy prize when they finish. (Have campers wash their hands before eating.)
2. Say: *In today’s Bible story, a child around your age will see Jesus multiply his small lunch to feed 5,000 people. Only Jesus Christ can do a miracle like that.*

**Bible Study**

1. Have campers wash or sanitize their hands.
2. Ask: *Have you ever been “hangry” (hungry-angry)? It is not a good feeling! Hopefully you have been well-fed this week at camp.* (Note: Be sensitive to the fact that some campers may not have steady access to food at home.)
3. Read John 6:5–10. Play show and tell with the sardines and bread rolls. Say: *This was all the food to be found. The people were on a mountainside near the Sea of Galilee, and there were probably not many restaurant options around there in biblical times. So, it was time for a miracle.*
4. Read John 6:11–13. Invite campers to sample a taste of the bread rolls by tearing off pieces. Say: *In the story, the people ate as much as they wanted of the bread and the fish, even though there had only been five loaves of bread and one fish to begin with. Jesus had performed a miracle. The people were full, and there were even leftovers!*
5. Ask campers to sit in a circle and pass around a red fast food basket. Continue adding baskets to the circle in this passing game until all 12 are in play. Continue passing until someone drops one. (It works well to do this with a singing or clapping rhythm, but it is still challenging without music when there are 12 baskets circulating at once.)
6. Say: *This miracle revealed to the crowd that Jesus is the Son of God.* Read John 6:14.

**Memory Verse Challenge**

1. Display Memory Verse Poster 4. Read it together.
2. Use the Bible Background to help explain that God always multiplies cheerful giving. Say: *If you give what you have decided in your heart to give, you will be blessed. And that doesn’t make sense; it’s difficult to explain the multiplication of giving and doing good. The Bible actually says, “It is so great that no one can tell how wonderful it really is!” (2 Corinthians 9:15). So, I can’t explain it, and I won’t even try.*
3. Challenge campers to balance a red fast food basket on their heads while they recite the Memory Verse and shout “All Day, Every Day!”

**Application Activity**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Say: *A cheerful giver must decide in their heart what to give. I want to share this song with you. It asks, “What can I give? What can I bring?” Let’s worship and see what is in our hearts to give.*
2. Play “I Will Offer Up My Life” by Matt Redman.

**Prayer**

Pray: *Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for multiplying goodness in our lives. May we be like the crowd that day and recognize that You and only You can do these multiplying miracles. May we look into our hearts today and see what it is that we can give. Amen.*