

Philip Meets an Ethiopian

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



Scriptures

Acts 8:4, 5, 26-39

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to tell others about Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify situations where the students can use God's word to teach others about Jesus

Memory Verse

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
(Acts 8:37)



Bible Knowledge

Philip and the Ethiopian

This Philip in Acts chapter 8 is not the apostle Philip (see Jn 1:43, 44), but a Greek-speaking Jew. He was one of the seven deacons chosen to help with the food distribution program in the church (see Lesson 6).

Philip had a successful ministry preaching to great crowds in Samaria (Acts 8:5-7), but when an angel of the Lord spoke to him, he obediently left that ministry to go to a desert road. This road descended from Jerusalem to Gaza, which was southwest of Jerusalem. Gaza was the last major settlement before the desert which stretched to Egypt. Ethiopia was located in Africa south of Egypt. Because Philip went to where God sent him, the way was opened for the gospel to reach Ethiopia, which was like the "end of the earth" at that time.

The Ethiopian in this passage was the minister of finance. He was responsible for distributing funds of the treasury and thus held a prominent position in the Ethiopian government. When Philip

approached him, he was reading from the Book of Isaiah. The Ethiopian accepted Philip's offer to explain the Scriptures to him and was baptized immediately after he understood God's words.

The eunuch was obviously very dedicated to God because he came such a long distance to worship in Jerusalem. The Jews had contact with Ethiopia in ancient days (Ps 68:31; Jer 38:7), so this man may have been a gentile convert to Judaism. Because he was the treasurer of Ethiopia, his conversion likely brought Christianity into their country.



Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds are fascinated by picture books. They are also at a stage where they enjoy going through the printed text and pointing out words they are familiar with.

Sometimes we may brush off the fact that our students cannot really read and that the Bible is too hard for them. But this is a time when they absorb information like a sponge. Next time you teach the memory verse, consider showing your class where it is found in the Bible, or write the memory verse on the board. There may be important sight words they can learn.

Keep an open Bible in your hands or on your lap as you present the Bible story each week. Be sure to let your students know that the story comes from the

Bible and that you have to study the Bible before you can teach them.

You may wish to explain why the Bible is so important to you and to them. For example, you could tell them reading the Bible has helped you during difficult times. Let each student see how important God's word is to you.

The students can practice what they've learned about studying the Bible. Use large Bible picture books to show scenes that are being discussed. Have your students explain the messages or situations in the pictures. For example, you could ask, "How did you know that this picture is about the disciples of Christ receiving the Holy Spirit?" Let them explore the Bible in this way to develop a healthy habit of studying the Scriptures. Over time, this can also give them a sense of the Old and New Testaments, and how the Bible is sequenced.



Vocabulary

Preach

to tell another person about Jesus

Miracle

something amazing that only God can do

Chariot

a big open box with wheels, pulled by horses, to carry people

Baptize

to go completely into living water and be cleansed in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins



Before You Teach

Just before an angel of God told Philip to go south toward the desert, he was having a lot of success preaching in Samaria (Acts 8:5-8). The Bible records that he performed miracles, casting out demons and healing the paralyzed. Many in that city believed what he preached about the kingdom of God and were baptized. Philip must have felt empowered and strengthened by what he witnessed. The church was growing. But it was at this time that God wanted him to go to the desert. Philip responded by obeying, and he left for the desert without asking any questions.

We can learn several things from Philip's response. First, he was obedient to the will of God. The ministry in Samaria was growing. He probably would have liked to stay and continue to preach. He

might have thought that it was strange for God to ask him to head toward the desert. What good could he do there? He did not know what lay ahead of him, but he dropped what he was doing in Samaria and went anyway. That is true obedience and faith. When God calls us today to an unknown place or area of work, are we ready to obey?

We can also see that Philip was always ready to preach. He did not know he would meet an Ethiopian, much less the passage the eunuch was reading. Yet, when he saw the Ethiopian, he asked if he understood what he was reading. Philip was ready to preach God's salvation to all those who were willing to listen. In order to be ready at all times, we need to constantly study the word of God. Do we consistently read the Bible? Are we familiar with the words of God? Are we ready to share our testimonies with others when the opportunity arises? Let us follow the example of Philip and be ready to work for God when He calls us.



Bible Story

The Disciples Do Jesus' Work

Do you remember what happened after Jesus died on the cross and was buried? He came alive again. Jesus was not dead anymore because He is God. After that wonderful miracle, Jesus had to leave to go back to heaven. Before Jesus went back to heaven He told His disciples that they had a very important job to do. What was this job? It was to tell everyone in the world the wonderful news about Jesus. This was so that other people could go to heaven and be with Jesus.

The disciples took this job that Jesus gave them very seriously. They went to many different places to tell everyone about Jesus and His salvation. Many people who heard the good news came to believe and the church grew. There were so many believers that the disciples could not look after the church and also preach the good news about Jesus. So they decided to choose seven helpers to look after the church. All the members were happy because the disciples could continue to preach and there were seven people who could take care of the church.

One of Jesus' seven helpers was named Philip. Philip loved Jesus very much, and he was glad he was chosen to help the church. Sometimes he would be helping the members. Other times, he would also visit other places and tell people about Jesus so they could be saved.

Philip Preaches in Samaria

One time, Philip went to a place called Samaria to tell people about Jesus. Everywhere Philip went in Samaria, he talked about the wonderful Savior. He told the people that Jesus is God's Son. He told them that Jesus loved them. He talked about the great things Jesus did. Because God helped Philip, he was able to perform many miracles. Do you remember what miracles are? (Let students answer.) They are special things that happen if God allows it. For example, a miracle is when Jesus heals people who are very sick. This is a big miracle. There are also small miracles that happen to us. Can you think of any miracles? (Let students answer; e.g. waking up in the morning, rainbows in the sky, etc.)

Soon almost everyone had heard about Jesus,

and there was great joy in that city. The new Christians came together to sing and praise God because they were so happy to hear the news of Jesus. They probably said, "Hallelujah Praise the Lord "

When other disciples heard that Philip had preached to Samaria, they also went there to help. After the disciples arrived to help teach the word of God, Philip knew it was time to go to other places. There were other people who wanted to hear about Jesus. So he walked to many other places, telling people about his wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is very important to know that Philip didn't just go to places where he wanted to go. He went to places where God told him to go. He didn't do things or go anywhere without asking God first. How do you think Philip asked God? (Let students answer.) He asked God by praying. When we want to do something for God, especially when we want to tell others about Jesus, we need to be like Philip and remember to pray to God first.

Philip Preaches to the Ethiopian

One day, Philip was getting ready to tell others about Jesus. Then something wonderful happened. An angel appeared to him. The angel told Philip to go down a special road that was long and dusty. Philip knew that road would take him to the desert. He didn't know why God would want him to go there but he obeyed. He knew God had a special job for him to do.

Philip traveled down the lonely desert road as he was told to do. At first, there was probably no one on the road with him. As he walked, he kept looking around. Then, he saw that far, far away were some horses pulling a beautiful chariot. Do you know what a chariot is? A long time ago the people didn't have cars, buses, or trains. They had to travel on foot, or on donkeys or horses. Some people, who had more money, could travel by chariots. A chariot was like a big open box with two wheels. This big box was pulled by horses so the person traveling inside would not have to walk and be tired. When Philip saw the chariot, he wondered if God wanted him to go there.

The Spirit of God told Philip, "Go near to the chariot."

Philip ran to the chariot to meet the person

who owned it. When he got closer to the chariot, he was surprised to find a man reading God's words. This person was from a faraway country called Ethiopia. This man had an important job. He was in charge of all the queen's money. He was on the desert road because he had just gone to a place called Jerusalem to worship God. Now, he was going home to Ethiopia.

The man in the chariot was holding a large scroll. Do you remember what a scroll is? A long time ago people didn't have books. They wrote things down on something like paper and rolled them up. This was called a scroll. The Ethiopian man was reading a Bible scroll.

When Philip got close enough to the man, he noticed that the man looked confused.

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man in the chariot said, "No, I need someone to tell me what the words mean."

So the man asked Philip to sit next to him. Philip looked at the words on the Bible scroll.

He said, "These words are about Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. He died and came alive again. He loves you and wants you to be saved."

Suddenly a big smile spread across the man's face. He was very happy to have someone tell him about Jesus. Philip and the Ethiopian man traveled together so Philip could teach him more about Jesus.

When they came to some water the Ethiopian man said, "Look. Here is some water. Please bap-

tize me."

The Ethiopian man learned from Philip that he had to be baptized if he wanted to be saved.

Philip answered the man, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," the man answered.

Philip knew that the man was ready to be baptized. So the chariot was stopped and the two of them got down. They went down to the water and the man was baptized. Then an amazing thing happened. After Philip came up out of the water, the Spirit of God caught Philip away. God took Philip away to preach somewhere else. His work on the desert road was finished. Now the man was all by himself. But he was happy. He was glad that Philip helped him understand God's word, and that he was baptized. He went home very happy. He couldn't wait to tell everyone about Jesus.

We learned that Philip obeyed God and went to the desert road where he met the man from Ethiopia. He told the man about Jesus and he baptized him. The man probably went back to Ethiopia and told everyone about Jesus. More and more people were able to hear the wonderful news about Jesus. Jesus wants us to do the same today. He wants us to tell others about Him so that they can believe in Him. There are still many people in the world who don't know Jesus yet. Let's pray to God and ask Him to help us be brave so that we can do His work.



Check For Understanding

1. **What did Philip do so he could tell more people about Jesus?** (He traveled from place to place.)
2. **How did Philip know where to go to tell people about God?** (He prayed to God.)
3. **What did the people in Samaria do when they heard about Jesus?** (They believed in Jesus.)
4. **Who did Philip meet on the long and**

dusty road? (A man from Ethiopia.)

5. **What were the words on the Bible scroll about?** (They were about Jesus.)
6. **What did the man do after he heard about Jesus?** (He was very happy; asked Philip to baptize him.)
7. **Can you think of other ways that people can help each other learn about God's words?** (Allow students to answer. Some suggestions: talk about Bible stories at home and at church, pray with one another, follow God's commands, be helpful and kind, etc.)



Life Application Story

Following Jesus' Footsteps

Julie came home from church one Saturday evening with a great idea. At church, she was learning about what Jesus did. This week she learned about Philip and the Ethiopian. Julie wanted to do something special to see if she could remember the Bible stories she had heard. Julie decided that she was going to make a board game. She was going to stick footprints she had cut out onto a large cardboard.

She went to her room and took out all the things she needed to start. She placed her scissors, glue, cardboard, paper, colored pencils, eraser, and her children's Bible on the floor. Then she began to work.

First, Julie colored the large cardboard and marked the places she was going to stick her footprints on.

After she did this, she said, "Now, I can draw some pictures of little children, men, women, Jesus' twelve disciples, and Jesus Himself."

Julie was working quietly when she heard her dad outside her room.

"Julie, are you in your room?" Mr. Lewis called.

"Yes, I'm in my room, Dad " Julie answered.

Mr. Lewis knocked on Julie's door and Julie opened the door for her father.

"What are you doing, dear?" asked Mr. Lewis.

"I am making up a game," Julie told her father excitedly. "I am going to use these footprints to show each good thing Jesus did for the people."

"That's wonderful " Mr. Lewis exclaimed. "But tell me what you plan to write on this cardboard."

Julie began to tell Mr. Lewis all the Bible stories she had heard and what she planned to do with each footprint. Mr. Lewis listened carefully to Julie's stories. Sometimes, Julie made some mistakes with the story and Mr. Lewis helped her by correcting her.

"It's very important to tell Bible stories correctly," Mr. Lewis said. "That's how we teach people to know about the true God and the true church. It's also very important to always pray and ask God to

help you when you tell others about Jesus."

"Ok, Dad. I'll remember that," Julie replied.

After Julie explained what she was going to do, Mr. Lewis left her room to let her finish her game.

An hour later, Julie ran out of her room holding her large cardboard yelling, "Dad, I finished my game."

Julie showed Mr. Lewis the wonderful pictures of the people and the animals she had drawn.

"Wow " Mr. Lewis said. "It looks fantastic I'm sure Jesus would really like to play your game."

Julie giggled and whispered to her father, "Dad, thank you for helping me."

Both Mr. Lewis and Julie smiled and gave each other a big hug.

Then Julie had another idea.

"I think I'll take it to school for show and tell on Monday," she said. "Maybe people at school would like to play my game."

"That's a wonderful idea. It's a great way to tell your friends about Jesus I'll get a box and help you pack it away."

On Monday, Julie brought her game to school. Her friends and teacher listened as she explained it during show and tell.

"It looks like you put a lot of effort into making your game, Julie. Maybe some of you would like to play Julie's game at recess or lunch," her teacher suggested.

Julie felt very happy when she saw some of her friends whisper excitedly to each other. Then Julie remembered what her dad had told her about praying to God for help. So Julie said a quick prayer in her head and asked God to help her tell her friends about Jesus.

When the recess bell rang, Julie took her game out and set it up under a tree in the playground. A few of her friends from her class came and sat around the game. Michelle Marsh, who also attended the same school as Julie, joined them.

"This game looks like fun, Julie, but we can't play because we don't know the stories in the Bible," one of her class friends said.

"That's okay," Julie said, "Michelle and I can tell you the stories. We can play in teams and when you land on one of the pictures we'll tell you the Bible story about that picture "

"That's a great idea, Julie " Michelle agreed.

The friends played until the bell rang. Some of them wanted to play again at lunch and asked Julie to bring it out later. Julie was very excited that people liked her game but she was even happier because she could tell her friends at school about Jesus. Her heart felt very joyful and she could not wait to get home and tell her dad about her day.



Activity 1

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Draw in the missing things to complete the picture. Review the story with the students.

1. Philip is preaching to a lot of people. He says "Jesus loves you."
2. Philip is led by God's Spirit and walking on a desert road.
3. Philip and the eunuch are standing in a chariot talking about God's words.
4. Philip is baptizing the eunuch in living water.



Activity 2

Helping Others Learn About Jesus

Look at the pictures. Can you do these things?

1. You can say grace before eating so others can see how you thank Jesus.
2. You can help a younger believer by reading the Bible with him.
3. You can open the door for someone at church to show Jesus' love.
4. You can follow your parents' instructions and throw out the garbage.



Activity 3

How Much Do You Know About Jesus?

Share the following information with the students. These are facts that kindergartners should know about Jesus. This can be a simple question and answer session, or it can be turned into a game (e.g.

Questions to Think About

1. **How was Julie able to tell her friends at school about Jesus?** (She made a game and told them stories about Jesus as they played.)
2. **What can we do to tell others about Jesus?** (Some suggestions: saying grace before lunch at school, telling others about church, helping others and being kind so they can see the love of God, etc.)

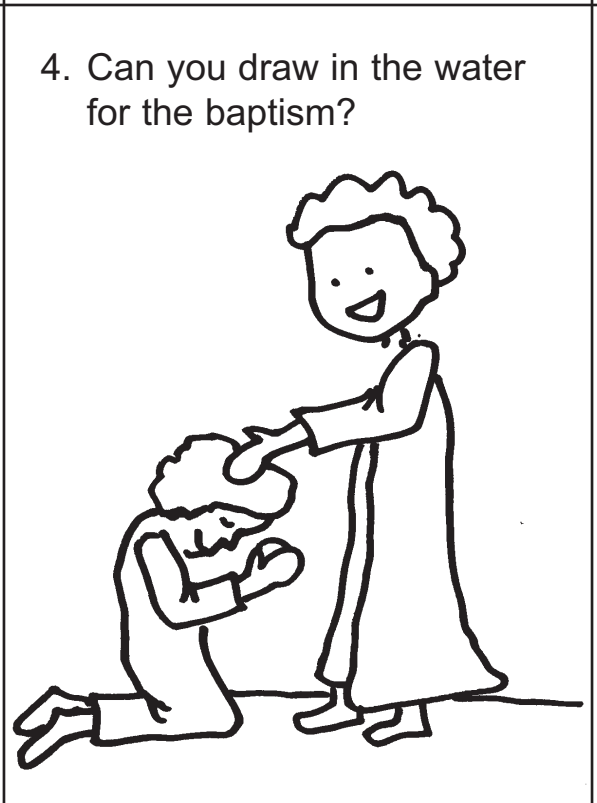
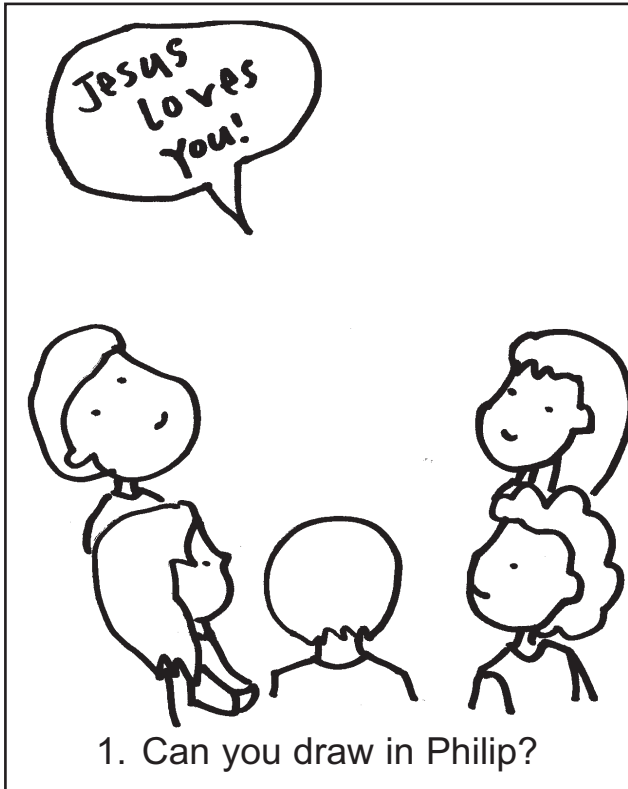
asking the students to raise their hands if they know the answer, leaving some answers out, etc). The purpose of this sharing is to review what we believe in, and to also spark their interest in talking about Jesus with family and friends.

1. Did you know Jesus was born in Bethlehem but raised in Nazareth?
2. Did you know Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago?
3. Did you know Jesus performed many miracles, including the feeding of the 5000 thousand?
4. Did you know that Jesus is God?
5. Did you know that Jesus told us to love God and to love our neighbors?
6. Did you know that Jesus died for us on the cross?
7. Did you know that Jesus has come back to life and is watching us in heaven?
8. Did you know that Jesus sees everything that we do?
9. Did you know that Jesus wants us to believe in Him and follow Him?
10. Did you know that Jesus wants us to tell others about Him?

Activity 7:1

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Draw in the missing things to complete the pictures.

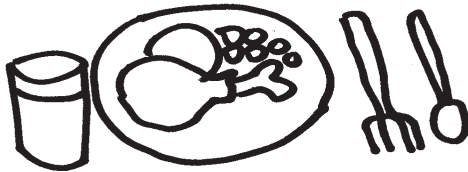


Activity 7:2

Helping Others Learn About Jesus

Look at the pictures. Can you do these things?

1. You can say grace before eating so others can see how you thank Jesus.



2. You can help a younger believer by reading the Bible with him.

3. You can open the door for someone at church to show Jesus' love.



4. You can follow your parents' instructions and throw out the garbage.

