

LESSON 5

PHILIP PREACHES

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Philip

The Philip that is mentioned in Acts 8 is not the apostle. He was one of the seven deacons chosen in the Jerusalem church. Due to the persecution in Jerusalem following the death of Stephen, Philip became an evangelist, traveling to nearby cities in the regions of Samaria and Judea to proclaim the Messiah. Philip was in fact one of the first to preach the gospel outside of Jerusalem.

The Ethiopian Eunuch

The man that Philip met was not actually from what is now known as modern-day Ethiopia. His home was part of the Ethiopian kingdom in present-day Sudan, just south of Egypt. He was likely a Gentile convert to Judaism, but he did not have a full understanding of the Christian faith or know who Jesus was, as evidenced by his conversation with Philip. However, the eunuch was still very dedicated. He had traveled all the way to Jerusalem for worship and it was on his journey back home that Philip met him. Because the eunuch was the treasurer of Ethiopia, his conversion to Christianity brought forth a new area. This marked the beginning of the gospel reaching to "the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Simon the Magician

Simon is like the great illusionists of today, except that illusionists today tell you that their magic is only an illusion, but Simon wanted people to believe that his magic was from a divine source. Simon practiced his sorcery to gain power and fame. He went everywhere "claiming that he was someone great" and all those people "heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time."

Today, there are still many people like Simon who utilize power to attract others for their own glorification and many are simply frauds trying to make money.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 8

BIBLE TRUTH

Philip preached the word during the persecution.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know the importance of preaching the truth to everyone.
2. To understand that, even though we may encounter difficulties when preaching, we must always rely on God and the Holy Spirit to help us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

(Mark 16:15b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for protecting us every day. You give us the wisdom and the strength that we need to do Your work. Please help us draw closer to You and learn to testify for You to our friends and neighbors, just as the apostles and disciples did during the time of the early church. Help us to be powerful and strong when we speak Your words. May all the glory be Yours. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Philip was one of the people involved in the expansion of the church into areas outside of Jerusalem. Many believed and were converted, including Samaritans and Ethiopians, people whom the Jews did not think would be offered salvation. But God's grace is for everyone and Philip was obedient, going wherever the Holy Spirit led him. He was not prejudiced against anyone.

Likewise, your students should hold the same attitude. It is easy to make assumptions about whether someone will believe in God or not based on their background or personality. But God showed through the conversion of the Gentiles that the gospel is for everyone, regardless of race or culture. It is God who moves someone to believe. Your students need to understand that whenever they speak about God, it is another opportunity to spread the message of hope and salvation. They should not assume that their Buddhist friend or atheist neighbor will not care. They only need to plant the seed. God will do the rest.

At this age, it is easier for your students to openly talk

about God to a friend or relative, without the inhibitions that an adult may feel. Their faith is innocent and simple. However, they may still think that Philip was successful because of the miracles he performed, something they can't do. It's important for the students to understand that it is definitely not necessary to perform miracles when preaching. Letting others see Jesus in them through their actions and speech is already a very important part of preaching. Others will know we are different through our actions and may want to explore our beliefs and doctrines further.

Some of your students may have already received the Holy Spirit, while others have not. It's important to learn from this lesson that the Holy Spirit is a gift. It cannot be bought with money, traded, or taken by force. It must be given, and that makes it extremely precious. Those who have the Holy Spirit must strive to keep it and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Those who do not must continue to pray hard for it.

VOCABULARY

persecute: to harass, bother, oppress, especially because of one's belief

eunuch: a castrated man or boy usually reserved for work as an official in the king's court

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the seven people who were chosen to be deacons of the church in Jerusalem. They were chosen because the apostles wanted to spend more time preaching the gospel. Therefore, people who were of good reputation and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom were picked to do the work of caring for the believers. One of them was a man called Stephen. He was good at taking care of the church but he was also a powerful speaker, always talking about Jesus. The Jewish leaders did not like what he was preaching. They thought that he was taking away some of their power in the community because many people believed in Jesus after hearing him speak. So they had him stoned to death. But even as he was about to die, he was not afraid because he knew that God was with him. Stephen even asked God to forgive the sinners who were putting him to death. We learned that we need to bravely preach God's words. No matter what happens, God will be there to help us through.

BIBLE STORY

[Several cities are mentioned in this story. Use the provided map to give students a better idea on the locations.]

The Church Is Persecuted

The stoning of Stephen sent shockwaves through the thousands of believers in Jerusalem. Nobody thought anything this horrible would happen. But now, the Sanhedrin (the supreme council and court of justice among the Jews) and the Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of all the Christians before they got any stronger. A man called Saul of Tarsus was already going from house to house and arresting people whom he suspected were followers of Jesus. He took them and put them into prison just because of their faith. Because of this, many people were scattered throughout the city. They did not gather together to worship as they had done in the past. [Ask your students to imagine how difficult this must have been and compare to the freedom of religion we enjoy today.] Hundreds of Christians also fled the city of Jerusalem. Some went to Syria in the north while others fled to Egypt in the south. However, even though they could not be together in one place, their faith in Jesus was still strong and wherever they went, they preached the word of God. It was this way that the message of salvation spread to many new places outside the city.

Philip Preaches in Samaria

One of the people who left the city was Philip. He was one of the seven people chosen to become deacons; they specifically looked after the believers in Jerusalem. But now because of the persecution, he decided to leave the city and preach Christ to others. He went to the region of Samaria [refer to map] and talked to the people about Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was able to perform miracles of healing. The responses from the people were tremendous. There were so many people who came to believe in Jesus in Samaria that Philip needed help. So when the apostles, who had remained in Jerusalem, heard about this, they sent Peter and John to help him. When the two apostles arrived, they talked more about Jesus and prayed with the new believers. They even laid hands on them to help them receive the Holy Spirit. The people in Samaria were happy to have found Christ. They prayed and worshipped God fervently.

Simon, the Magician

One of the new believers in Samaria was a man called Simon. He worked as a magician for a living and was very popular. [Explain to your students the difference between Simon and the magicians of today. See "Before You Teach" section.] But ever since Philip, Peter, and John arrived, he was no longer noticed because they performed much greater miracles than he had ever done. Whenever Peter and John laid hands on the people, they would receive the

Holy Spirit. When Simon saw this, he wanted the same power so that the people would think he was still a good magician. So he decided to ask the apostles.

"I want to be able to give people the Holy Spirit when I lay my hands on them," said Simon, "I will give you money for helping me."

When Peter and John heard his request, they were furious. How could he buy something that was a gift from God? It showed that he did not really understand the teachings and only wanted great powers so that he could be praised like before.

Peter answered him, saying, "Your money will perish with you. You thought that you could buy God's gift. You will have no part in God's work because your heart is not right before Him. You should repent right away and pray to God. He might forgive you for such evil thoughts."

Simon was scared when he heard these words. Even though he had made a wrong request, he did nevertheless believe in God. So he prayed to God and also asked the apostles to pray for him so that he might be forgiven. [Remind students about how precious the Holy Spirit is. See "Understanding Your Students" section regarding the Holy Spirit.]

The Ethiopian Eunuch

In the meantime, Philip continued to preach to the people in Samaria. It was a very huge region and there were many places to visit. But one day, an angel of God told Philip to go to a different place.

"Go toward the south, to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," said the angel. [See map.]

Philip obeyed because he knew God must have been sending him there for a reason. When he reached the road, he noticed a well-dressed Ethiopian eunuch traveling by on a chariot. Although Philip did not know him, he could see that the man was a chief official in his own country. Actually, he was a eunuch who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He had just gone to Jerusalem to worship God. Now he was on his way home.

As Philip watched the chariot go by, the Spirit suddenly spoke to him.

"Go up and join the chariot," said the Spirit.

He listened to the voice and began to run towards it. He wasn't sure what he was going to tell the man. When the eunuch realized Philip was chasing after him, he told his servants to rein in the horses. As the chariot came to a halt, Philip noticed that the man was reading from a scroll containing the book of Isaiah. Now he understood what God wanted him to do.

So he asked the eunuch, "Do you know what you are reading?"

The eunuch said that he did not and invited Philip onto the chariot to talk with him. The eunuch thought that maybe Philip could explain the words of Isaiah to him.

[Show students *Illustration 1*.]

The eunuch was reading a passage about how God's servant would be "led as a sheep to the slaughter."

He did not understand what these words meant and so he asked Philip, "About whom is the prophet talking?"

Philip took this opportunity to preach the good news of Jesus to him. Isaiah was talking about Jesus and how He would be crucified on the cross. So Philip told the eunuch about the death and resurrection of Christ. He also told him the importance of getting baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit. As they talked, the chariot began to move again.

The Ethiopian Is Baptized

As the chariot traveled along the road, the Ethiopian saw

some water. He believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized into His name.

So he turned to Philip and asked, "See, here is some water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, then you should." The eunuch proclaimed that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and then commanded the servant to stop the chariot and he and Philip got off. They walked to the water's edge and went into the water. Then Philip baptized the Ethiopian there. When they got out of the water, Philip suddenly disappeared. The Spirit of God had taken him away to preach to others elsewhere. But the Ethiopian was very happy. He was now a sheep in the house of God. He went home rejoicing.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why were the believers in Jerusalem persecuted?** Because they worshipped and believed in Jesus.
2. **Where did Philip go first to preach?** Samaria.
3. **Who did the apostles send to help Philip in Samaria?** Peter and John.
4. **Why did Peter and John tell Simon the magician to repent?** Because it was wrong for him to ask if he could pay money to buy the power to give the Holy Spirit.
5. **Where did Philip meet the Ethiopian eunuch?** He met the eunuch on the road that went down from Jerusalem to Gaza.
6. **Philip did not question God and obeyed his instructions. Name some other Bible characters that also obeyed God all the time.** Examples: Noah, Joseph, and Jesus.
7. **How can you help other people know about God?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. persecuted
2. preach
3. Samaria
4. magician, buy
5. False; he obeyed God and ran up to the chariot.
6. True
7. True
8. B
9. C
10. D

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we “are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” We are a royal priesthood. It is our duty to preach the gospel and we can start with our friends and family. If you’re afraid of preaching, you must not only ask God to give you the courage but also be a good Christian example. An important part of preaching is to show others that we are different, separate and holy. In this way, it can be a living testament to others. When they know that we are different they may want to explore our beliefs and doctrines further, making preaching easier.

There are 4 main reasons we need to preach the gospel.

1. God instructed us to preach the word.

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

The word 'preach' has a two-fold meaning:

A. It means to tell the word by mouth.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

B. It means to live out the word of God or to manifest Christ in us.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

2. We’re called to preach the gospel. It is a calling and not a profession.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” (Eph 4:11)

3. The gospel is the power of God!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Rom 1:16)

“And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.” (Luke 4:32)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1:18)

4. The gospel changes lives.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Cor 5:17)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)

In this lesson, we also learned that the Holy Spirit is very precious. Some of you may have already received the Holy Spirit, while some of you may still be praying for it. It's important to remember that the Holy Spirit is a gift. It cannot be bought with money, traded, or taken by force. It must be given, and that makes it very, very precious. Those who have the Holy Spirit must strive to keep it and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't mean that after you receive the Holy Spirit you don't need pray hard anymore. We need the fullness of the Holy Spirit to help us bear the fruits of righteousness and receive the power from God to preach the gospel. The power of God can change our lives and make our lives worthy of His calling.

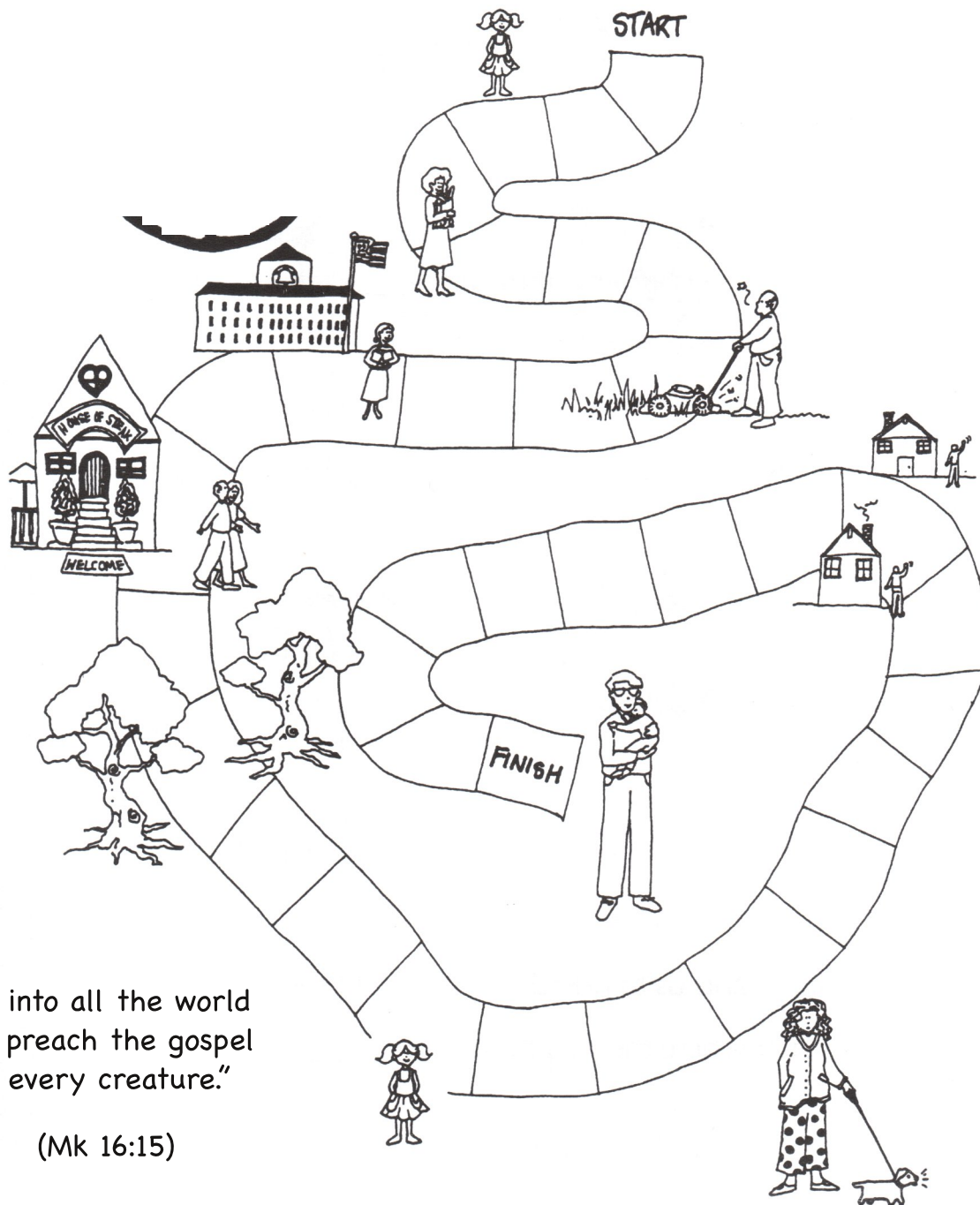
ACTIVITY

1

Preach to Everyone

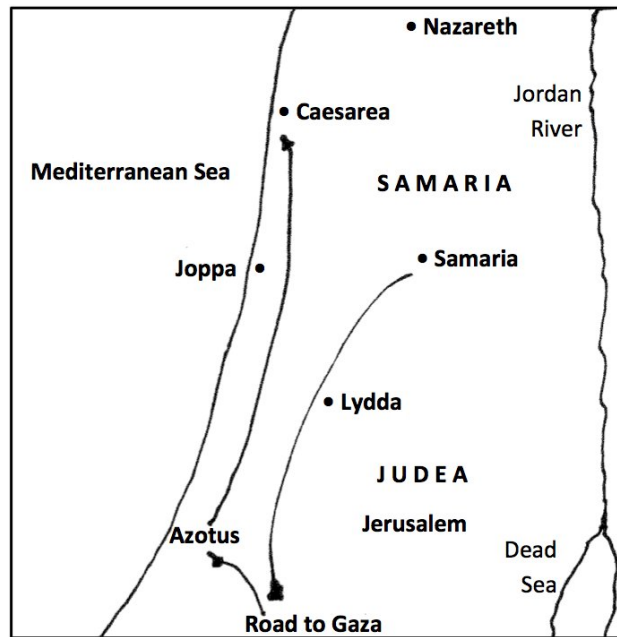
- Objectives:** 1. To help the students become witnesses for Jesus.
2. To give students the opportunity to experience preaching and defending their faith.

Instructions: Philip was guided by the Holy Spirit. He went wherever the Holy Spirit led him. Play this game as a whole class. Divide the class into two teams. Have each team come up with a team name. One team will begin by rolling a die. Then they will move the corresponding number of spaces. If they land on a picture square, they must brainstorm as to how they will share about Jesus with that person. When they have provided a good answer, the other team will take their turn and so on. If they land on a blank square, nothing happens and the other team will continue. Play until one team reaches the finish line.



"Go into all the world
and preach the gospel
to every creature."

(Mk 16:15)



Map



Illustration 1: Philip Preaching to the Eunuch

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 5—Philip Preaches

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Philip preached the word during the persecution.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To know the importance of preaching the truth to everyone.
 2. To understand that, even though we may encounter difficulties when preaching, we must always rely on God and the Holy Spirit to help us.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Mark 16:15a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

magician	Samaria	persecuted	buy	preach
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1. The believers in Jerusalem were _____ because they worshipped Jesus.
2. Even though they scattered to many places, they continued to _____ the good news about Jesus.
3. Philip went to _____ and preached to the apostle.
4. Simon was a _____ who wanted to _____ the power to give the Holy Spirit.

True or False

5. Philip was afraid of the Ethiopian eunuch and did not approach his chariot. _____
6. God wants us to preach the gospel to everyone, no matter where they are from. _____
7. Simon repented for making his request. _____

Multiple Choice

8. ____ : The Ethiopian was reading a scroll containing the book of ____.
 - a. Leviticus
 - b. Isaiah
 - c. Job
 - d. Exodus
9. ____ : Who did the apostles send to help Philip in Samaria?
 - a. Matthew and James
 - b. Paul and Silas
 - c. Peter and John
 - d. Andrew and John
10. ____ : Philip preached to the Ethiopian in _____.
 - a. A house
 - b. A manger
 - c. A temple
 - d. A chariot