

# 24. PHILIP TELLS AN ETHIOPIAN ABOUT JESUS



## STUDYING GOD'S WORD

### Bible Reference

Acts 8:26-39

### Memory Verse

Psalm 118:17

I will proclaim what the Lord has done.

## Bible Background

Philip was one of the seven deacons chosen to help the apostles in Jerusalem look after the poor in the fellowship. He was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Acts 6:1-6. Through the persecution which broke out against Christians in Jerusalem, Philip was led to the city of Samaria. There his ministry was greatly blessed by God, Acts 8: 4-8. Many people repented and believed the good news of salvation through Jesus.

One day, Philip received a very different task. An angel sent by God told him to go down to the desert road, which led from Jerusalem to Gaza, a distance of about 100 km. The man whom God wanted Philip to meet was an important official from northeast Africa. He was the treasurer of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia. This man had traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship the God of the Jews. As a Gentile he could not enter the inner courts of the temple. But he had bought a copy of the scroll of Isaiah which he read on his way home, still seeking to know God.

Philip could explain to the Ethiopian the meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus, through which he became the Savior of the world. He believed and asked to be baptized. Philip's obedience was richly rewarded. He walked a long way to Gaza. The distance from Samaria to Gaza is about 100 km. But an influential man from Ethiopia was saved and returned home joyfully to spread the good news among his own people.

## UNDERSTANDING THE AIM



Through this lesson children will:

- know that the Holy Spirit helped Philip to tell others about Jesus
- realize that the Holy Spirit will help them to talk about Jesus
- ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to talk to others about Jesus.

### Materials Required

1. Pictures I. 24,1 Philip; I. 24,2 Wagon; I. 24, 3 Philip raising hand; I. 24,4 Ethiopian praying
2. Four skewers
3. Some cardboard and scotch tape

### Practical Preparation

1. Cut out the pictures; then paste a piece of cardboard behind each picture, inserting a skewer in between.
2. Practice the poem, using the hand movements shown in the sketches.

## GUIDING THE CHILDREN THROUGH THE LESSON

### Creating Interest

Last week we heard how the disciples received the Holy Spirit. They were filled with joy and told others about Jesus without being afraid. They had been with Jesus. They had seen all Jesus had done. Now they told others about Jesus. What did the disciples tell others about Jesus? (Say the following lines slowly and clearly with hand movements):



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. Jesus came from heaven.  
He told us that God loves us.  
He healed the sick.
2. He died on the cross to forgive our sins.
3. He was raised on the third day.
4. He was lifted up to return to heaven.
5. Whoever believes in Jesus, will be saved.

This is what the disciples told about Jesus.  
So many people had never heard about Jesus.  
Therefore the disciples went to them, even to far away places, to tell them.  
Now we will hear about Philip, who was a disciple of Jesus.  
(Show the puppet of Philip.)

## Telling the Bible Story

Philip was a disciple of Jesus.

He told the people in the city of Samaria about Jesus.

One day an angel of the Lord came to Philip and said to him,  
“Go down the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Philip left immediately. No one else was walking along the road.  
Why did Philip have to walk down this lonely road?

He did not know.

But Philip obeyed the message God gave through the angel.

He left the city of Samaria.

He started to walk down that lonely road where he met nobody.

(Show the figure of Philip and move it, walking...walking...)

“Why do I have to walk here?” Philip thought.

He did not know that God wanted him to meet someone  
to whom he should speak about Jesus.

Philip walked and walked...all by himself.

But he knew the Holy Spirit led him.



Philip came to the main road.

He stood still to listen. What did he hear?



Listen! Do you hear that noise?

“Clippety-clopp...clippety-clopp...clippety-clopp...” That  
sounded like horse hooves and like a wagon rolling. And  
now Philip could see the wagon.

He saw a beautiful chariot coming in his direction.

(Show the picture of the chariot.)

There was a man sitting in his chariot reading a book. His  
skin was very dark and he had curly hair. He was a man  
from the far away country of Ethiopia.

As Philip looked towards the chariot that came  
closer, the Holy Spirit in his heart told him, “Go  
to that chariot and stay near it.” Philip ran up  
to the chariot.

(Move the figure of Philip to the chariot).

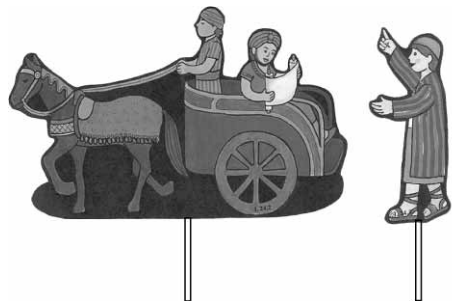
He heard that the man was reading the Bible.

“Do you understand what you are reading?”  
Philip asked.

“I cannot understand when nobody helps me.  
Please come up and sit with me and help me  
to understand.”

Philip was very happy to do so. At once he got into the chariot.

He started to tell the man what was written about Jesus in the Bible.



Children, do you still remember, what you can tell about Jesus?

Let us repeat the poem:

“Jesus came from heaven.

He told us that God loves us.

He healed the sick.

He died on the cross because of our sins.

He rose again on the third day.

He was lifted up to return to heaven.

Whoever believes in Jesus will be saved.”

The man from Ethiopia was listening very seriously.

He believed all Philip told him about Jesus.

He believed in the Lord Jesus and therefore was saved.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water.

The man from Ethiopia asked, “Can I be baptized?”

“When you believe in the Lord Jesus, you can be baptized,” said Philip.

Philip and the man from Ethiopia went down into the water.

Philip baptized the man.

After that the Holy Spirit took Philip away

to tell others in another city about Jesus.

(Take the figure of Philip away.)

The man from Ethiopia was very happy.

Even though Philip was no longer with him, he knew that Jesus was with him.

Jesus would always be with him.

Therefore he went home with a glad heart.

(Show the picture of the chariot and let it drive away.)



## Applying God's Word

### Talking about the story

Children, who told Philip to go down the lonely road?

Yes, God sent an angel who told him.

Who told him to go near to the chariot?

Yes, it was the Holy Spirit in his heart.

The Holy Spirit also helped him to talk to the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helped that man to believe in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit made his heart glad.

In the same way the Holy Spirit can help you every day.

He teaches you what to say.

If your little brother cries because he is afraid, you can say to him:

“Don't be afraid, little brother, the Lord Jesus will watch over us.”

Does your family pray before meals?

If not, you could ask father or mother to let you give thanks to God for the food.

### **Activity**

The teacher sings a song “Telling others about Jesus” with the children.

They could stand up and step in place to the rhythm of the melody. Or they can sing this song and walk around the classroom.

Additional suggestion:

The teacher asks three children to come to the front and gives them the stick puppets.

The first child receives the stick puppets of Philip, the second the chariot, the third the picture of the Ethiopian man. The teacher guides them to retell the story.

This can be repeated with three other children.

### **Memory verse**

Do you still remember the memory verse from last week?

Let us say it together. “I will proclaim what the Lord has done.”

Today if you wanted to proclaim what the Lord has done, what would you say?

You could tell others the story of Philip and the Ethiopian man!

### **Closing Moments**

Let us pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help us to tell others about Jesus.