

# Philip And The Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

## **MEMORY VERSE**

ACTS 8:39

Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Masking tape and envelopes.

Long narrow pieces of paper, crayons or markers, and ribbon.

A poster board cone, string, salt, a hook and a large black piece of paper.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Right Place at the Right Time**

With masking tape, make a grid of seven squares up and eleven squares across. Mark the top “North,” the left “West,” the right “East” and the bottom “South.” Select eleven students to volunteer to take directions from you across this grid. Give each of them a numbered envelope. Inside each of these envelopes should be one or two words or a small phrase from the Memory verse. The words must be in order in each of the numbered envelopes. Hand the envelopes to each of the eleven volunteers. Give each of them the following directions to follow in and out of the grids:

- 1) Stand inside the Southwest corner square. Take 4 steps East, 3 steps North, 3 steps West, 2 steps North, 1 step West, and 2 steps North.
- 2) Stand inside the Northeast corner square. Take 2 steps South, 3 steps West, 1 step South, 2 steps West, 2 steps North, 2 steps West, 1 step South, 1 step West, 2 steps North, 1 step West, and 1 step North.
- 3) Stand inside the Southeast corner square. Take 5 steps West, 5 steps North, 1 step West, 1 step South, 1 step West, 2 steps North, 1 step West, and 1 step North.
- 4) Stand inside the Southeast corner. Take 2 steps North, 2 steps West, 3 steps North, 2 steps West, 3 steps South, 1 step West, 4 steps North, 2 steps West, and 1 step North.

- 5) Stand inside the Northwest corner. Take 4 steps South, 2 steps East, 2 steps South, 5 steps East, 3 steps North, 1 step West, 1 step North, 1 step West, and 1 step North, 1 step West, and 2 steps North.
- 6) Stand inside the Northeast corner square. Take 3 steps South, 2 steps West, 1 step South, 4 steps West, 2 steps North, 1 step East, and 3 steps North.
- 7) Stand inside the Southwest corner square. Take 1 step East, 3 steps North, 6 steps East, 2 steps North, 1 step West, and 2 steps North.
- 8) Stand inside the Northwest corner square. Take 6 steps South, 10 steps East, 2 steps North, 5 steps West, 1 step North, 1 step East, 2 steps North, 1 step East, and 2 steps North.
- 9) Stand inside the Northeast corner square. Take 2 steps South, 7 steps West, 3 steps South, 4 steps East, 3 steps North, 1 step East, and 3 steps North.
- 10) Stand inside the Southwest corner square. Take 1 step East, 2 steps North, 6 steps West, 1 step North, 2 steps East, and 4 steps North.
- 11) Stand inside the Southeast corner square. Take 5 steps West, 3 steps North, 4 steps East, 3 steps North, 1 step East, and 1 step North.

When each student has completed taking their instructions they should be standing in a line outside the grid in order of one through eleven. Have them open their envelopes and read the contents. They should have the memory verse in correct order.

Explain to your class that we don't always understand why God tells us what to do or where to go, but He always has a plan. When we follow His direction, His goals are accomplished!

## **LESSON TIME!**

Have you ever had a strong feeling that you should talk to someone about Jesus. Maybe you wanted to reach out to a friend that was having a lot of problems. Sometimes it is hard to know what to say. You may have said, "I'll pray for you." Maybe you wanted to tell your friend that you care and that Jesus loves him or her and can help.

Today's lesson is about one of Jesus' disciples, named Philip who felt this same way. On the road between Jerusalem and Gaza, God led Philip to talk to a man about Jesus. Jesus had risen from the dead and had ascended to heaven to be with God the Father. He had sent the Holy Spirit to help the people who believed in Jesus as Messiah. An angel of the Lord impressed on Philip that he should go and tell a rich man about Jesus. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

### **ACTS 8:26-29**

**Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.**

**So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,**

**was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.**

**Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."**

This important official had converted to the Jewish faith and had gone to Jerusalem to worship God. He was reading God's word in Isaiah and was seeking to know more about God. On the way home, Philip was led by the Lord to his chariot to explain the word of God to the official.

There are a couple of interesting things to see in these verses. First of all, the Ethiopian eunuch was searching for God. He truly wanted to know who God was and to have a relationship with Him. He was a very important official in the Ethiopian government. He was also a Gentile, but he converted and became a Jew in order to know who God is.

But also notice that God was at the same time preparing someone to share with Him about Jesus. God prepared Philip to be the person to bring the good news of Jesus to this man who was searching. Philip was willing to be led by God and was obedient to God's call in his life. The result was that God used Philip greatly and the Ethiopian eunuch was saved.

If we are seeking to know the truth about God know that God will reveal Himself. The Ethiopian man was looking for God in the right place, His Word. When we seek God, He will show Himself to us either through His Word or through someone sharing with us the good news. Also, if we are willing and obedient we may find that God will use us for great things, like telling people about Jesus.

### **ACTS 8:30-31**

**So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"**

**And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.**

When Philip came up to the official, he was reading the prophecies about Jesus from the Bible located in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. When Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading, he admitted that he didn't. He then asked Philip to sit beside him in the chariot and to discuss the Scriptures with him.

He really wanted to understand what the Bible was saying. Sometimes people are too proud and won't admit that they don't understand or that they need help to understand. But this man really wanted to know God. So Philip saw this as a great opportunity to share the word of God with him.

## **Scrolls**

Provide a long piece of paper for each student. Have your students make scrolls with Isaiah 53:7,8 written in it. Roll them up and tie them with a red ribbon.

Explain to your class how fortunate we are to have the word of God. In Bible times, paper was a scarce commodity. We have so many copies of God's Word at our disposal; we should take full advantage of them.

### **ACTS 8:32-34**

**The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so He opened not His mouth.**

**In His humiliation His justice was taken away. And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."**

**So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"**

The official knew about God, but he didn't know about Jesus. The prophecy he was reading told about Jesus. It told how He would be tried and that He would die on the cross for our sins. The official was very confused about what he was reading and asked Philip to explain it to him. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

### **ACTS 8:35**

**Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.**

Philip read the Bible with the rich man explaining the Scriptures and how these prophecies related to Jesus, the Son of God. He explained Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and how to accept Jesus into his heart as Savior and Lord. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

Have you ever had an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus? What was it like for you? Sometimes it can be scary to share with others. But always remember what Jesus promised, that when we have those opportunities to share He will help us to know what to say. Jesus loves us and loves those we are sharing His good news with. He will be there with us and help us to share the truth about Him.

### **ACTS 8:36-38**

**Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"**

**Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

**So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**

After Philip told the official about Jesus, the official accepted Jesus as his Savior. As they were traveling along, the official saw a body of water and asked Philip to baptize him as an outward sign that he had become a believer and follower of Jesus. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

Philip said that the only thing needed for him to be baptized was that He believed in Jesus with all of his heart. He confessed with his mouth that he did and was baptized. Baptism is the next step of obedience that we should take after we become a Christian. It doesn't save us, but is a picture of what has taken place in our hearts. The Ethiopian man was ready to be fully identified with Jesus.

#### **ACTS 8:39-40**

**Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.**

**But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.**

After the official was baptized, Philip was caught away by the Holy Spirit; God transported him to another place. Perhaps God did this to impress upon the Ethiopian eunuch His great power. The official was excited and he went on his way rejoicing. Philip in the mean time, was taken to Azotus to minister there.

God was done with Philip in this place and He took him on to the next place that He would use him. Just like Philip was able to share with the rich Official, we need to know what we believe and be ready to share if God leads us to someone who wants to know about Jesus. To share how important Jesus is to others is called witnessing. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

How to witness to others:

1. Accept Jesus into our heart as Savior and Lord.
2. Study God's word to know what we believe.
3. Pray for God's guidance.
4. Share what God has done in our lives.

To share Jesus with someone is very exciting. The more we talk about Jesus, the more real He becomes to us. It is very rewarding to know that God can use us to help others know about Jesus. **Jesus can use us to tell others about Him.**

## **Salt Pendulum**

Make a cone out of poster board with a small hole at the top for an even flow of salt to come out. Turn the cone upside down and suspend it from a hook at the ceiling or doorway. Place a large piece of black paper under the cone and fill the cone with salt. Allow the cone to swing back and forth over the paper, spilling its contents in a random pattern. After a few moments, this pattern will make a consistent design. Have the children respond to the beauty of the pattern.

Explain to the class that sometimes it seems like our direction is meaningless; maybe even messy, but when it is direction from God, it always makes sense. It becomes His beautiful pattern of obedience.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to share with others the love of Jesus Christ. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.