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Philip and the Ethiopian

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Theme: The Gospel is for everyone, everywhere

4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

This Sunday school lesson explores how God's message of salvation isn't confined to one culture, religion, or background, it breaks barriers to reach anyone who seeks truth. In Acts 8:26, 40, we see Philip, a Jewish disciple, encountering a high-ranking Ethiopian eunuch (a man of noble status) on his way to Jerusalem. Though the eunuch was likely an outsider by Jewish law, God uses Philip to share the gospel with him, proving that Christ's message is universal. The Ethiopian, though far from Jerusalem and a non-Jew, is deeply moved by Philip's teaching and asks to be baptized, showing that faith isn't tied to nationality or tradition. Students will learn that God's love extends beyond borders, and the gospel is meant for everyone, including those who feel excluded by religion, race, or tr Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

One day, the Holy Spirit spoke to an angel of the Lord. He told the angel, 'Get up and go south to the desert road that leads to Gaza,' where there was an important message for someone. The angel didn't tell Philip exactly who he should meet, but he knew the Spirit would guide him.

Philip, a Christian missionary, was following the angel's instructions. As he walked down the road toward Gaza, he noticed a nobleman, a high-ranking official in the court of King Aretas, standing in the desert, dressed in fine clothes and riding a chariot. The nobleman was reading the Scriptures but didn't understand them.

The angel stopped Philip and said, 'Run ahead of him!' Philip hurried, catching up with the nobleman. When the nobleman saw him, he asked, 'What do you want with me?' Philip replied, 'Are you really the man you claim to be? Are you the Ethiopian eunuch who travels with Queen Candace to her capital?' The nobleman looked surprised but

said, 'Yes, that is me.'

Philip then began to explain the Scriptures to the nobleman, pointing out how the passage he was reading, the prophecy about Jesus (Isaiah 53), was being fulfilled. The nobleman listened intently. Philip said, 'You can believe in Jesus Christ, and you will be forgiven for your sins!' The nobleman replied, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!'

As Philip shared the good news, the Holy Spirit filled him with power. Philip told the nobleman, 'If you believe with your heart, you can be saved.' The nobleman believed, and he was baptized right there in the water of the desert road. The nobleman asked, 'What can I do to earn God's favor?' Philip answered, 'If God calls you to come to Him, you must come!' The nobleman immediately left and traveled to Marea, where he was taken care of by Christians.

Key Verse

Acts 8:35 , 'Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.'

The key verse (Acts 8:35 , 'Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.') calls us to respond to God's truth.

>> Missions Spotlight

Ethiopia has one of the oldest Christian traditions in the world , dating to the 4th century. Today, the Ethiopian church is growing rapidly, especially among Muslim-background believers. The story of the Ethiopian eunuch has come full circle.

-> To the Cross

Philip explained Isaiah 53 to the Ethiopian eunuch , a passage about the suffering servant who would die for sin. The Ethiopian understood, believed, and was baptized. The cross was the key that unlocked the Old Testament for him.