

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Ethiopian Who Believed*

Lesson Objective:

In our story today, we learn about how the Good News is not meant for just a few people but for everyone! Philip tells an Ethiopian eunuch about Jesus Christ, and we can assume that the Ethiopian took the Good News back to his home in Ethiopia. As we move through the book of Acts, we really do see the Holy Spirit building the Church - God's people - empowering the Apostles and others to tell everyone about the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is still building the Church - God's people - today by empowering us to tell everyone we meet about the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution.
- The Holy Spirit told Philip to travel on a road. The Holy Spirit knew that an Ethiopian eunuch was on the road and needed help understanding Scripture.
- Philip obeyed the Holy Spirit and met the Ethiopian eunuch. The Ethiopian was confused. Philip explained the Scriptures to him and that all Scripture points to Jesus Christ.
- The Ethiopian and Philip came to some water; the Ethiopian confessed that Jesus Christ is God's Son and was baptized.
- As soon as the baptism was over, Philip was transported to another city to preach the Good News and the Ethiopian was full of joy because of the Good News.

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Story: Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 341-342

Scripture Memory for June: Acts 26:17b-18 (ESV)

I am sending you (*point up to God and then to yourself*)

to open their eyes (*close your eyes with hands closed beside them then open hands wide as you open your eyes*)

so that they may turn from darkness to light (*turn around and lower your head covering it with your arms and then face the front again raising arms, lifting your hands to the light*)

... that they may receive forgiveness of sins. (*open wide your hands out in front of you*)

Craft: Chariot

Supplies: Cardstock horse and chariot, Abide circle, brad, verse sticker

Instructions: 1. Attach Abide circle to wheel with brad.
2. Place verse sticker on cardstock.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, in our story today another Apostle tells someone about the Good News! The Good News is being told in lots of places to lots of people! But in our story, something incredible happens – someone disappears! Let's find out more...

The Magician Who Tried to Buy God

As the Apostles were in Jerusalem, they heard about the great things happening in Samaria. Peter and John decided to go and visit Samaria. When they arrived, Peter and John prayed that the Samaritan believers might receive the Holy Spirit. They were baptized, but the Holy Spirit had not come to live inside of them. Peter and John began laying their hands on the Samaritan believers and they received the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw the Apostles lay hands on the believers and the believers received the Holy Spirit, Simon became very jealous. Simon offered the Apostles money and said to them, "Give me this power so that when I lay my hands on a person, he will receive the Holy Spirit too!"

But Peter said to him, "You and your money should both be destroyed! You thought you could buy God's gift with money!" Simon thought he could buy God, but that's impossible! "You cannot share with us in this work. Your heart is not right before God. **Repent! Turn away from this evil thing you have done. Pray to the Lord and ask for forgiveness,**" Peter told Simon.

Simon cried back to Peter and John, "Please pray for me to the Lord. Pray that the things you have said will not happen to me!"

Then the two Apostles told the people the things they had seen Jesus do, and after speaking they went back to Jerusalem. On the way, they went through many Samaritan towns and preached the Good News to everyone!

The Ethiopian Who Believed

While Peter and John were in Samaria telling everyone the Good News, an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. The angel said, "Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road." So Philip did just as he was told. Philip got ready and walked on the desert road. On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch. A eunuch is a special kind of servant. The Ethiopian eunuch was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was responsible for taking care of all her money! One day the Ethiopian eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

So, Philip ran toward the chariot. Philip heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The Ethiopian answered, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!" Then the Ethiopian invited Philip to sit with him in the chariot. The Ethiopian was reading this verse:

"He was like a sheep being led to be killed.

He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut.

He said nothing.

He was shamed and was treated unfairly.

He died without children to continue his family.

His life on earth has ended." (Isaiah 53:7-8)

The officer said to Philip, "Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else?" Philip told the Ethiopian. He started in Isaiah and told the Ethiopian of how it was talking about Jesus. Philip told the Ethiopian eunuch about the Good News – that God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to rescue us from our sin!

While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water beside the road. The Ethiopian said, "Look! Here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" Philip answered, "If you believe with all your heart, you can." The officer said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

The Ethiopian stopped the chariot. He and Philip went down into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian! When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away and the Ethiopian eunuch never saw Philip again. The Ethiopian continued on his way home, full of joy because of the Good News!

The Holy Spirit took Philip to a city called Azotus. There Philip preached the Good News in all the towns on the way from Azotus to Caesarea.

Questions for Review

- An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and told him to travel on the desert road. (Yes)
- Philip saw a circus on the road and he got very excited. (No! Philip saw the Ethiopian eunuch.)
- A eunuch is a special kind of servant for kings and queens. (Yes)
- The Ethiopian eunuch took care of the Queen of the Ethiopian's money. (Yes)
- The Ethiopian eunuch was coming from vacation at the beach. (No! He was coming from worshipping in Jerusalem.)
- The Ethiopian eunuch was reading from the book of Isaiah. (Yes)
- Philip told the Ethiopian eunuch that who he was reading about was Jesus. (Yes)
- The Ethiopian eunuch confessed and believed that Jesus Christ is God's Son. (Yes)
- Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch after he confessed his belief in Jesus Christ. (Yes)
- The Ethiopian eunuch was full of joy because of the Good News. (Yes)