

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!

NB: Please look to the Acts trifold to help explain how the Holy Spirit grew the Church as well as what goes deepest to the heart goes widest to the world. Each week the lesson will contain a small part from previous week's lesson to help kids remember previous stories.

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 October: We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29b) ESV

Opening Activity: *Abide, Reach, Disciple, Send*

Use these motions to teach the Family Ministry Mission statement that we are using for the wheel of the chariot! Teach them the motions and then play it like "Simon Says" as a group and then maybe the real game as time allows.

As disciples of Christ we:

ABIDE in Him by spending time in His Word and prayer (have Children jump and land with both feet solid on the ground when you say abide).

REACH out to the lost folks who don't know about God, Jesus and the Good News about His plan of salvation (have the kids hold their arms out wide). Remind them that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That's our job while we are here. Tie this to what we are learning about Phillip.

DISCIPLE them to know and rely on the love God has for us through time in His Word, in prayer and worshiping with His people (give yourself a big hug). Talk about how a hug represents the time you spend with someone you love and how God accepts us and pours life into us as we spend time with Him.

SEND them to tell others about the Good News (pretend to push someone in a swing). Talk about how when you push someone you are giving them the power to soar high and eventually they will swing on their own.

Have them repeat these actions over and over as you say: ABIDE, REACH, DISCIPLE, SEND.

Craft: Chariot

Supplies: Cardstock horse and chariot, Ethiopian and Philip, Abide circle, brad, verse sticker, magnet, tape

- Instructions:*
1. Attach Ethiopian and Philip so they sit in chariot trimming them or chariot.
 2. Attach Abide circle to wheel with brad.
 3. Place verse sticker and magnet on the back.



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

- Who was our story about today?
- Who spoke to Philip?
- Who did Philip see on the road?
- Where was the Ethiopian coming from?
- What was the Ethiopian reading?
- What did the Ethiopian believe?
- What did Philip do to the Ethiopian after he believed?
- What was the Ethiopian full of as he left Philip?