

Lesson 12

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

Memory Verse

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose (Romans 8:28)

Teacher's Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

1. Define evangelizing
2. Locate the book of Isaiah where the Ethiopian was reading from
3. Describe the Ethiopian eunuch where he lived, his job, his boss
4. Express in their own words the importance of this encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian

Teacher's Bible Study

After the Holy Spirit filled the disciples on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4), Peter declared: This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh (verses 16,17; Joel 2:28). What did my Spirit mean to Peter? What did it mean to those who heard him? What did it mean to Luke, who recorded this account?

Zacharias and Elizabeth were filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was full of the Spirit. God promised to pour out His Spirit. No one with a good understanding of the Old Testament and Jewish concept of the Holy Spirit would read these scriptures and naturally conclude that the Spirit is a Person distinct from the One who sends it. And certainly neither Peter nor any of the many Jews who heard him proclaim the fulfillment of prophecy thought in such terms.

The Holy Spirit is described as the finger of God (Luke 11:20; Matthew 12:28), the mind of Christ, and the mind of the Lord (I Corinthians 2:16; Isaiah 40:13). The Spirit of God is contrasted with the spirit of man (I Corinthians 2:11), and is compared with wind, water, and fire (Acts 2:1-3; John 4:10-15; 7:38,39). These descriptions are revealing. They tell us that Christ and His disciples thought of the Holy Spirit as the spiritual extension, presence, indwelling, and power of God.

It is apparent in the following story that, though Luke does not record God commanding Philip to preach to the Samaritans, it is recorded that he was first guided by an angel and then by God's Spirit. The encounter Philip had with the Ethiopian eunuch is important for several reasons. The example is given of evangelizing to an individual for us to follow today. The seed that was planted helped to fan out the gospel message across the ancient world.

Provide copies of Activity Page for each age group, enough for all your students. For the scroll activity use pieces of brown grocery bag or parchment paper. Before class, burn the edges of paper to make it appear aged. If you wish. DO NOT allow children to do this! The dowel is optional for each child. Provide crayons, scissors and pencils.

Presenting the Bible Story

Christ has ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit has been given on Pentecost. Persecution against the church in Jerusalem began with the death of Stephen. Many left their homes and scattered through Jerusalem and Judea. Everywhere the Christians went, they told about Jesus Christ. Since Philip was successful preaching in Samaria, it must have been difficult for him to leave.

Acts 8:26

It was an angel that came and told Philip where to go. The desert may refer to a city, road or a deserted place. Philip obediently went as he was commanded. How would you have responded?

Acts 8:27

The Ethiopian eunuch is described in full detail here. He was a man from Africa who held a very high position in the harem of the palace. We know this, because it says he had charge of the queen [Candace] of Ethiopia's treasury. He is a devout man. He was returning from Jerusalem where he had gone to worship and he was reading scripture when Philip caught up with him. Ethiopia here does not refer to modern day Ethiopia, but to ancient Nubia. Candace is a title given which means Queen.

Acts 8:28

The wealth of the eunuch is obvious by the fact he is described as sitting in his chariot. While he rode along, he was reading from the book of Isaiah.

Acts 8:29 30

Philip is now guided by the Holy Spirit. Philip heard the eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah which prompted him to ask the eunuch if he understood what he was reading. Do we always understand what we read from the Bible? We have ministers and teachers to help us understand.

Acts 8:31 35

Turn to Isaiah 53:7-8 and read. The Ethiopian invited Philip to explain. This is important. God was working with the Ethiopian. He had begun to open his mind to be receptive to His truth. Philip took advantage of the opportunity to teach and he now understood why he had been sent to this desert.

Acts 8:36 39

The consequences of Philip's evangelizing is as follows: The eunuch believed in Jesus Christ and wanted to seal that belief by being baptized. Philip followed the directive of Matthew 28:19. Since the eunuch wanted to be baptized, Philip must have taught the eunuch about baptism. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing. This is an example of joy. Because of the conversion of the Ethiopian, who was not a Jew, nor a Samaritan, but a Gentile, the Word of God reached other parts of the world.

Acts 8:40

The Spirit caught Philip away, he disappeared from sight, and was found at Azotus. Later he resided in Caesarea.

Art and Activities

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Have your students make a scroll with the memory verse written on it. Use a grocery bag or parchment paper that is at least twelve inches wide and as long as possible. Crumple the paper up several times to make it wrinkly and old looking. If you prepare the paper ahead of time,

you may want to burn the edges a little. DO NOT have your students do this.

It is optional to use a dowel on each end of the scroll. You may wish to just roll both ends evenly toward the middle.

Match the words with the picture and then color the pictures. Color the picture of Philip baptizing the Ethiopian.

Older Children

Have your students make a scroll with the memory verse written on it. Use a grocery bag or parchment paper that is at least twelve inches wide and as long as possible. Crumple the paper up several times to make it wrinkly and old looking. If you prepare the paper ahead of time, you may want to burn the edges a little. DO NOT have your students do this.

It is optional to use a dowel on each end of the scroll. You may wish to just roll both ends evenly toward the middle.

Match the words with the picture and then color the pictures. Color the picture of Philip baptizing the Ethiopian.

Explore with
your students the
following questions

Always close
your class
with prayer

Explore the Subject

1. Explain why the Ethiopian needed help from Philip.
2. How do you think the Ethiopian knew about baptism?
3. Was God working with the Ethiopian prior to his encounter with Philip?

Respond and Reinforce

1. Have you had to ever explain why you worship God the way you do? Write a paragraph about the experience.
2. Discuss the memory verse.

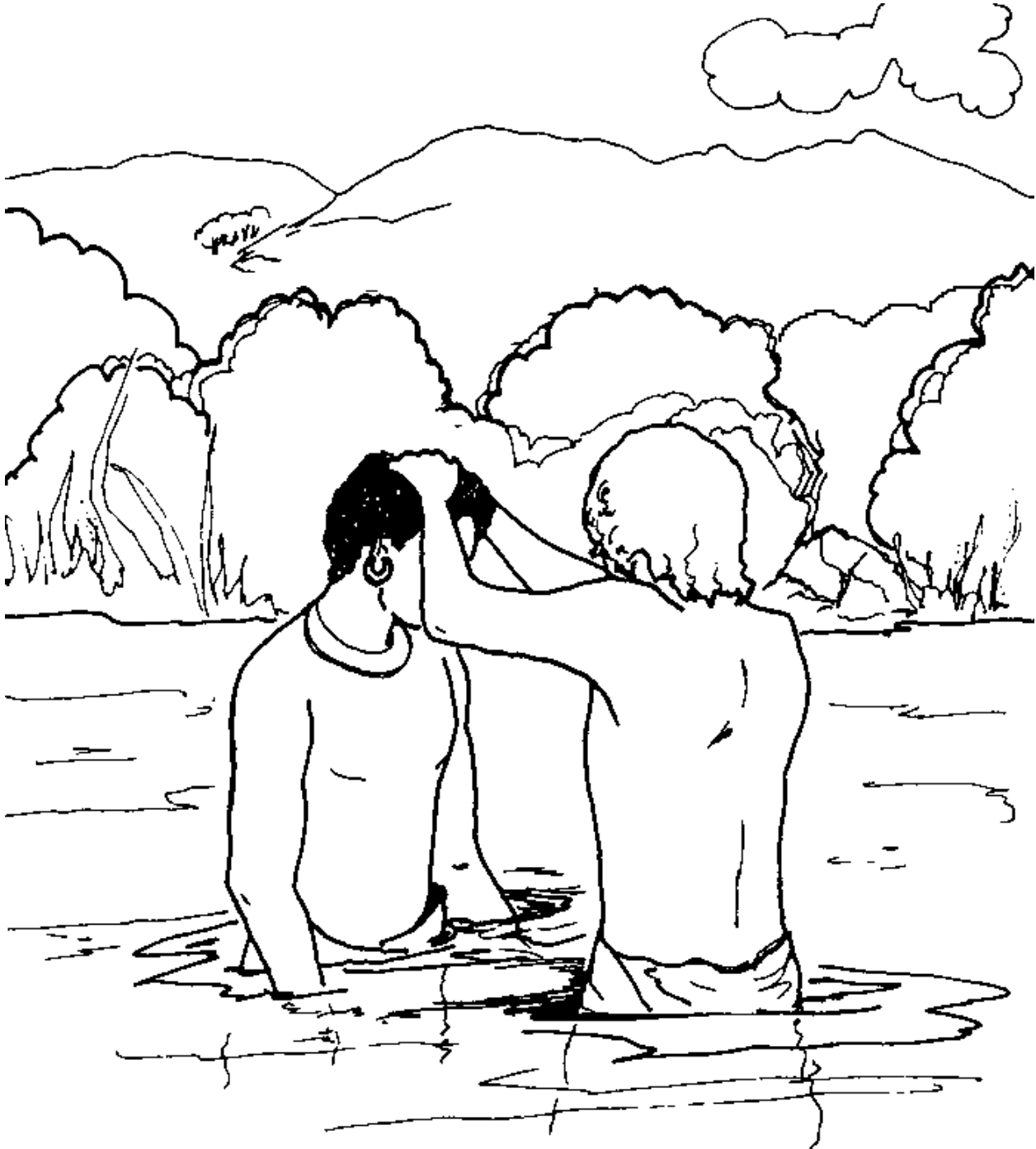
Activity Page

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26 40

The Ethiopian believed in Jesus Christ and he wanted to seal that belief by being baptized. Philip baptized the Ethiopian.

Color the picture.



Activity Page

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26-40

Philip was evangelizing in Samaria when an angel of the Lord ordered him to leave and go to a deserted place. It was on this deserted road that Philip met with the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Match the picture below with the word, then color the pictures.

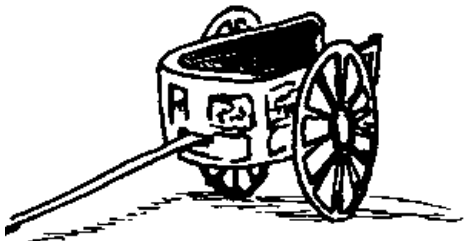


Chariot



Baptizes

Scriptures



Philip

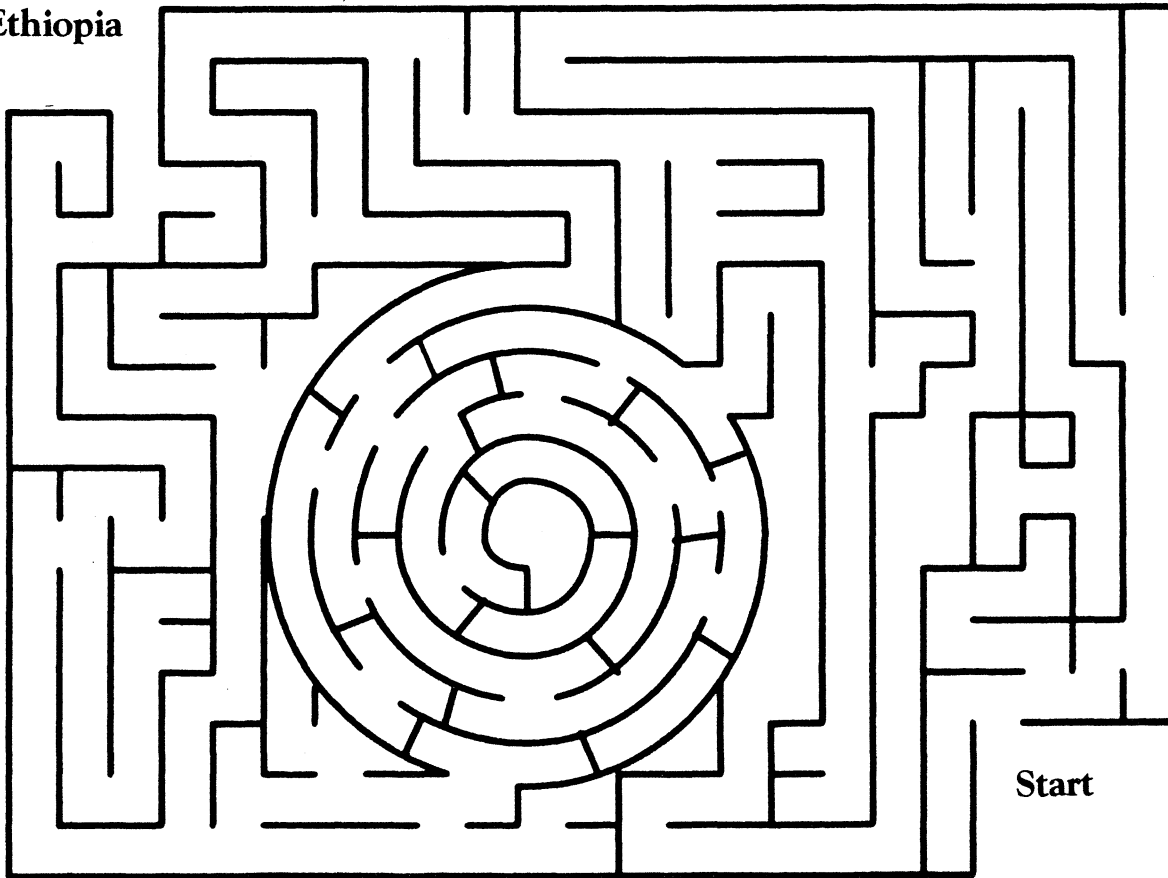
Activity Page

The Eunuch Goes Home

Acts 8: 39–40

Work the maze below—the Ethiopian goes home after being baptized by Philip.

Ethiopia



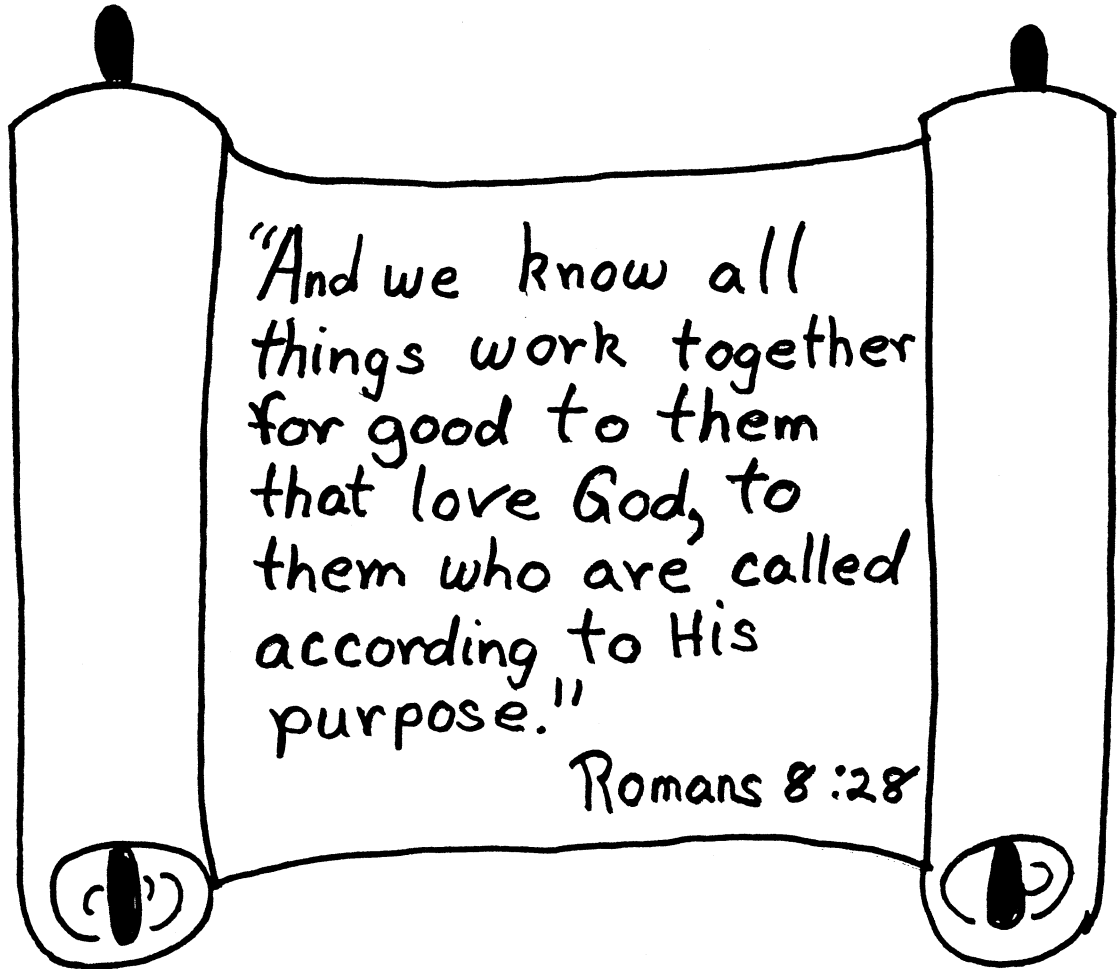
Answer the Questions: Read Acts 8:26–40

1. Why did Philip go south from Jerusalem into the Gaza desert? (verse 26) _____
2. What book was the eunuch reading when Philip came along? (verse 28) _____
4. What made Philip go up to the chariot? (verse 29). _____
3. Who did Philip preach unto the eunuch out of the book of Isaiah? (verse 35). _____
5. Did Philip continue to preach along the way to Caesarea, after baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch? (verse 40) _____

Art Activity

Materials Needed:

- Brown paper grocery bags
or brown wrapping paper
- Black or red felt-tip markers
- Two 1/4 inch dowels per scroll (optional)



(Verse)

“And we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose”

Romans 8:24

Art Activity

Wall Plaque

Materials Needed:
Construction paper
Colorful poster board
Crayons or felt tip pens
Glue
Ribbon or yarn
Scissors

