

Philip Teaches the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-39



New Testament 4
Part 1: Disciples of the Early Church

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 8:26-39

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["This is a Chinese"](#)
- ["Jesus Loves the Little Children"](#)
- ["This Little Christian Light of Mine"](#)
- ["What Must I Do to Be Saved?"](#)
- ["Go, Go Preach the Word"](#)
- ["I Can Be a Missionary"](#)
- ["What if All the Raindrops Were Lemon Drops and Gumdrops?"](#)
- ["Philip"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Pictures or felt figures of people from all over the world
- World map or globe
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Pictures of missionaries your congregation supports



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus wants everyone in the world to become a Christian so they can go to heaven. Even though I'm not yet a preacher or teacher, I can talk to other people about Jesus and invite them to Bible classes and worship services.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we studied about Simon. What did he try to buy? This week we are going to learn about how Philip taught others about Jesus. We can see that the early Christians we read about in the Bible saw how important it was to teach about Jesus so everyone would have the chance to be baptized and one day go to heaven. Today, we also should teach our friends, neighbors, and family about Jesus!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

How many of you know someone who believes in God but worships with a denominational group? Those people have some knowledge, but they need someone to teach them what the scriptures say about how to be a true Christian. Today, we are going to learn about how Philip taught a man who had some knowledge of the scriptures, but who needed someone to teach him the full truth.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. God spoke to Philip, while he was in Samaria, and told him to go to the "desert road" that went from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8:26b). He might have wondered who he could possibly find there, but Philip did as God commanded and went immediately.



HISTORICAL NOTE: "Two roads led south from near Jerusalem, one through Hebron into Idumea (Edom) and the other joining the coast road before Gaza heading for Egypt, both with plenty of Roman milestones as road markers" (*Bible Background Commentary*, p. 345).

2. Traveling in a chariot down that deserted road was a man from the African nation of **Ethiopia**. He was a very important man in the government of **Candace**, the Queen, because he took care of the country's money.



NOTE: The Ethiopian eunuch may have been traveling with a caravan since he was such an important official. Riding in a fine chariot, with a driver, would have instantly identified him as a man of wealth and made him an easy mark for robbers, which were common. Another indication of his wealth was that he owned a scroll.



HISTORICAL NOTE: Candace: the title of the Ethiopian queen, not her name. Some scholars think that an Ethiopian queen ruled on behalf of her son, either because he was too young to deal with affairs of state or because he “was considered the child of the sun” and, therefore, “too holy to become involved in secular affairs” (*Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible*, p. 1833).

Ethiopia: a sparsely populated kingdom which is sometimes called “Cush” in Scripture, after the descendants of Cush, the son of Ham. The exact location of this ancient kingdom is not known with certainty; it was likely in east Africa, south of Egypt. It is not the same as today’s Ethiopia, which developed from the Abyssinian Empire, but may have been at least part of modern-day Sudan. Biblical and historical records tell us that Ethiopians were tall and dark-skinned.

Eunuch: literally means a man who has been castrated, but that is not always how it is used in Scripture (e.g., Matthew 19:12). If this Ethiopian was a true eunuch, he would not have been allowed to worship in the Temple (Deuteronomy 23:1). True eunuchs were chosen to supervise harems, for example. The term eventually was used to refer to different levels of government officials. This man may have been a convert to Judaism (proselyte) or a Gentile who worshipped with Jews, seeking a lifestyle and moral standard much higher than the Gentile world—one who feared God like Cornelius.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[The Early Church Did Not Affirm a Gay Eunuch](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to an allegation about the eunuch of Acts 8.

3. The Ethiopian was traveling along this dusty road going home after spending time in Jerusalem worshipping God. He had probably been there for one of the yearly Jewish feasts. As he was returning home, he was reading aloud from a scroll which included what we call chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah. God told Philip to go up to the man’s chariot and talk to him. Philip **ran** to the chariot and asked the man, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man said he needed help and was glad to have Philip join him in the chariot so they could read and discuss God’s Word together. From the words of Isaiah and other scriptures, Philip taught the Ethiopian about the Savior. (He may have heard about Jesus and the Church while he was in Jerusalem. If so, Philip helped him put together what he had heard, along with what the Old Testament taught about the Christ.)



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Preaching ‘Jesus’ Includes Preaching Baptism](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for further discussion of the eunuch’s conversion.

4. The Ethiopian man understood that he needed forgiveness from his sins and needed to be baptized to have those sins taken away (be saved). They came upon a pool of water, and the man asked to be baptized. Philip told him that if he believed in Jesus with all his heart, he could be baptized. Then the man ordered the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water so that Philip could baptize him.



NOTE: Verse 37 of Acts 8 (the eunuch’s confession) is a textual variant, meaning there is evidence that it may not have originally been written by Luke (cf. J.W. McGarvey’s *Commentary on Acts*, pp. 158-159; H. Leo Boles’ *Gospel Advocate Commentary on Acts*, pp. 138-139). That said, there is little doubt that the eunuch would have made the confession in light of Romans 10:9-10 (cf. 1 Timothy 6:13).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Who Can Baptize Another Person?](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on who is authorized to baptize others.

5. When they both came up out of the water, God miraculously took Philip away from there to a town named Azotus (about 25 miles north of Gaza and about 35 miles west of Jerusalem). But the Ethiopian, a new Christian, continued his journey home rejoicing. He probably taught others about Jesus when he reached his homeland.
6. We do not know anything else about this man from Africa, but we do know that he was converted (i.e., taught about Jesus and then baptized), because the Spirit saw fit to direct Philip to him, and Philip cared enough to teach him.
7. Philip and the other Christians of that time knew how important it was to tell everyone they knew about Jesus. The Gospel is for **everyone**, no matter where they are from, or what color their skin is, or what language they speak.
8. Most of us won’t go to faraway countries, but we can still teach our friends and relatives about Jesus, just like Philip did. We can also give money to help support the kingdom, with its missionaries and evangelists in other places as they teach and preach about Jesus. In many different ways, we can help tell others how to become Christians, just like Philip did so long ago.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “Philip and the Ethiopian Coloring Sheet” (provided in activity sheets)
- Let the kids make cards to send to missionaries that your congregation sponsors.
- Using a flat map or globe, show the children the places where the congregation’s missionaries are working.
- Show pictures of the missionaries that your congregation supports.
- Have pictures or figures of children from different countries. Let them match the figures to houses where these children might live or put them on a world map to show where they live.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Let the kids make cards to send to missionaries that your congregation sponsors.
- Using a flat map or globe, show the children the places where the congregation’s missionaries are working.

- Write the “steps of salvation” on one side of the board, matching scriptures on the other side. Let the kids look up the scriptures and match them with correct “step.”
- Give each child six index cards to make flash cards. Ask them to write the “steps of salvation” on individual cards. For example, on one side of one card, they should write: HEAR. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” On the other side of the card, they should write: Romans 10:17.
- [“Philip Teaches the Ethiopian Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Plan of Salvation Matching Game”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Bible Bowling with review questions about this lesson and previous lessons.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Let the kids make cards to send to missionaries that your congregation sponsors.
- Using a flat map or globe, show the children the places where the congregation’s missionaries are working.
- Write the “steps of salvation” on one side of the board, matching scriptures on the other side. Let the kids look up the scriptures and match them with correct “step.”
- [“Philip Teaches the Ethiopian Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Plan of Salvation Matching Game”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Give each child six index cards to make flash cards. Ask them to write the “steps of salvation” on individual cards. For example, on one side of one card, they should write: HEAR. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” On the other side of the card, they should write: Romans 10:17.
- Play Bible Bowling with review questions about this lesson and previous lessons.
- Have the children read the following:
 - [“The Ethiopian Eunuch”](#) article in the December, 2008 issue of *Discovery*
 - *Philip and the Ethiopian* ARCH book, Martha Streufert Jander (DISCLAIMER: Skip the note to parents)

FINGERPLAY:

“THIS IS A CHINESE”

This is a Chinese (*hold up first finger*); his skin is yellow.
 This is an African (*hold up second finger*); he’s such a nice fellow.
 This is an Eskimo (*hold up third finger*); with a furry cap.
 This is a Mexican (*fourth finger*); with a great big hat.
 This little fellow (*pinky finger*); has a face like me.
 Jesus loves all of us, you see. We must try like Him to be!

SONGS:

“JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Traditional
 (Tune: See Internet)

Jesus loves the little children,
 All the children of the world,
 Red and yellow, black and white,
 They’re all precious in His sight.
 Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children...
Jesus rose for all the children....

“THIS LITTLE CHRISTIAN LIGHT OF MINE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

This little Christian light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine. (3X)
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood,
I'm gonna let it shine. (3X)
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine. (3X)
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Won't let Satan [blow on finger] it out.
I'm gonna let it shine. (3X)
Let it shine, all the time let it shine.

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Wonderful Story of Love”)

(This song works best if half of class asks questions and the other half responds.)

“What must I do to be saved?”
The question comes today.
“What must I do to be saved?”
O answer me, I pray.”

The gospel of Christ, you must hear;
Believing, you then must repent.
Confess the name of our Savior,
Who down from Heaven was sent.

CHORUS:

Be bap-tized, be bap-tized,
Be baptized, from your past sins you'll be saved.

“GO, GO, PREACH THE WORD” ([Click to Hear](#))

From: *Tiptoe Through the Bible with Tunes*

From: Pat Baker and Linda Chiles

(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Go, go, preach the word, preach to every land.
Tell of Jesus and how He died and of His saving plan.

Hear, hear, hear the Word, hear the Word of God.
Believe on Jesus the Son of God, that on this Earth He trod.

Repent, repent, turn away, turn away from sin.
Tell the devil you’re through with him; there’s been a change within.

Confess, confess, confess His name. He is the Father’s Son.
He lived and died, and over death, a victory He won.

Buried, buried, buried with Him, in a watery grave.
We’ve been baptized, we have obeyed, and now we know we’re saved.

Live, live, live for Him, live for Him each day.
At work or play, every day, we’ll follow in God’s way.

“I CAN BE A MISSIONARY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

I can go to North Dakota, I can go to Timbuktu,
I can climb the highest mountain, I can cross the ocean blue.
I can teach the Chinese people, I can teach the Indians, too.
And save the souls of men.

CHORUS:

I can be a missionary. (3X)
And save the souls of men.

“WHAT IF ALL THE RAINDROPS WERE LEMON DROPS AND GUMDROPS?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Down at the Station”)

Illustrations for this song in Creative Bible Teaching by Sarah Richey

What if all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

I’d go outside with my mouth opened wide—m-mm, m-mm, m-mm!

What if all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

What if all the snowflakes were ice cream and milkshakes?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

I’d go outside with my mouth opened wide—m-mm, m-mm, m-mm!

What if all the snowflakes were ice cream and milkshakes?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

What if all the people in the world were Christians?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

I’d go outside with my arms opened wide—m-mm, m-mm, m-mm!

What if all the people in the world were Christians?

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be!

“P-H-I-L-I-P” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: Mickey Mouse)

Whose the man who loved the lord and shared it with others?

P-H-I-L-I-P, Philip was his name.

He loved God (He loved God).

He loved God (He loved God).

He told everyone about His love (Yay! Yay! Yay!).

Come along and sing the song and do the very same.

Tell others about God’s Son, Jesus is His name!

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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Acts 8:26-39



New Testament 4
Part 1: Disciples of the Early Church

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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- **Pictures of missionaries your congregation supports**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus wants everyone in the world to become a Christian so they can go to heaven. Even though I'm not yet a preacher or teacher, I can talk to other people about Jesus and invite them to Bible classes and worship services.

INTRODUCTION:

- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning's lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Re-emphasize the steps that the Christians in Acts took to become Christians. Review the importance of following all the steps...leaving nothing out.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning's lesson
- On a cotton work glove, write each of the steps of salvation. Use the glove to talk about what each of the new Christians in the book of Acts did—and what we must do, too. You might want to have a glove for each child in the 1st-2nd grades.
- If you have someone in your congregation who can sign for the deaf, ask him/her to teach your class the signs for each of the steps of salvation.

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