

## Philip and the Ethiopian- Acts 8

### THE POINT

#### Focus:

The Holy Spirit works through available believers to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

God wants all sorts of people as part of the Kingdom of God!

#### Application:

We listen to the Holy Spirit guide us to people and places where we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We see believers from all over the world as part of God's family

#### Last Week:

#### 2 Weeks Ago:

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### HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- world map (potentially left over from Pentecost lesson)

#### Content:

**In our story today, we're going to talk about how God helped spread the gospel all over the world. Where on this map did Jesus live (help them find Jerusalem). Where do we live? Today, we'll meet a man from Ethiopia. Where is that?**

**From 12 disciples, the Holy Spirit spread the good news of Jesus all over the whole world. People who share this good news are called "Evangelists" or "missionaries".**

**Have you ever shared the good news of Jesus with someone?**

**Do you know someone who has gone somewhere in the world as a missionary?**

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## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Coloring page + Map
- Crayons or coloring materials

### Instructions:

Read the story aloud from the Bible of the excerpt below. Consider using the explanations in the excerpt for some of the tricky parts!

\*Many of our lessons recently have been very physical and interactive. This week, we're developing the skill of active listening while working quietly by ourselves. If this is difficult for children in the group, consider taking a few moments before reading to shake out all the wiggles and settle down. Emphasize what they can do- **look** at the picture and map, **color** the image creatively, **close your eyes** and imagine the scene in your head, **think** of a question or "wondering" to ask at the end.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

Acts 8:26-40

**Say: Over the past few weeks we've been talking about how the Holy Spirit helped the church spread. When Jesus returned to his Father in heaven, he told the believers to share the good news of his love with people in their city of Jerusalem, with the people in their country, and all over the world. In today's story, we're going to learn about how the Holy Spirit led a man named Philip to share the Good News of Jesus with someone from a very different part of the world!**

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. "Go south to the desert road," he said. "It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position in charge of all the wealth of the Kandake. Kandake means queen of Ethiopia. This official had gone to Jerusalem to worship. 28 On his way home he was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot. Stay near it."

30 So Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip asked.

**The man was reading from the Old Testament trying to find out more about God. God sent Philip to tell the man about Jesus!**

31 "How can I?" he said. "I need someone to explain it to me." So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 Here is the part of Scripture the official was reading. It says,

"He was led like a sheep to be killed.

Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off,  
he did not open his mouth.

**This is a part of the Bible that tells about how Jesus would die for our sins. The next verse told about Jesus, too:**

33

When he was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial.

Who can say anything about his children?

His life was cut off from the earth." (Isaiah 53:7,8)

34 The official said to Philip, "Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?"

35 Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus.

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*(continued)*

36-37 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official said, “Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?” 38 He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water. Philip baptized him.

**Some people are baptized as babies. Some people are baptized as adults. Baptism is a sign of welcoming the Holy Spirit into someone’s life. The Ethiopian man wanted to follow Jesus!**

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy. 40 Philip was seen next at Azotus. From there he traveled all around. He preached the good news in all the towns. Finally he arrived in Caesarea.

**Did you hear that? God did a special miracle and miraculously took Philip to a new town! We can trust that God was guiding the work of Philip in preaching the Good News of Jesus.**

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like on that desert road, bumping along in the chariot and reading the Old Testament together.

I wonder how the Ethiopian man felt when he heard that God's good news was for him!

I wonder what it was like for Philip when the Holy Spirit took him away miraculously.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**