

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Ten - Philip & the Ethiopian

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The story of Philip and the Ethiopian man is a story of two ordinary men encountering the power of the Spirit of God. Make sure as you teach this story that you are highlighting God's power at work and Him being the hero — not Philip. Pray that our kids would have the same desire to know God as the Ethiopian man did, and the same listening posture as Stephen.

- **Big Idea:** The Spirit moves toward all people of all nations, welcoming them into one family of God

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Super Powers (discussion)**

Ask: *If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why? How would you use this power to help others?*

Tell: Today we'll hear about someone who was able to run super fast and teleport to another location. Seriously. But it wasn't his power, it was the power of God. And it wasn't something he could do all the time, but something God did once as part of His big plan of restoration.

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 8:26-40

Philip was a man who had heard the good news of Jesus and believed. He was filled with the Spirit of God, just as Jesus promised his followers, and he went out telling people about Jesus. The Spirit began to do amazing things in Philip's life so that the people around him hearing the good news would see the power of God and believe. One day, an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: *"Get up and go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."*

So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

The Spirit told Philip, *"Go and join that chariot."*

When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. So Philip asked, *"Do you understand what you're reading?"*

"How can I unless someone guides me?", the man replied. So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the Scripture passage he was reading was from Isaiah 53 and it read:

***He was led like a sheep led to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
He was humiliated and denied justice.
Who will describe his generation?
For his life is taken from the land of the living.***

The man asked Philip, *"Who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?"*

Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The Ethiopian official said, *"Look, there's water. What would keep me from being baptized?"*

So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the man went down into the water, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the man did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing. Philip appeared in another land, Azotus, and he was traveling and preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Ethiopia is a long way from Jerusalem (it would take almost 4 straight days to drive a car). How do you think this man heard about the God of Israel from so far away?
- Why do you think a high official, an important man in Ethiopia, would travel so far to worship the God of another nation?
- How did the passage from Isaiah he was reading tell about Jesus?
- How do you think this would have been good news to the Ethiopian man?
- How do you think Philip was able to run alongside a fast chariot? How do you think Philip was able to teach the man about the Scripture? How do you think Philip was suddenly transported to another land after baptizing the Ethiopian? *[The Spirit of God is the answer to all of this!]*

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

Spirit, speak to us and show us what you want us to do. Give us the strength to do it. Be with us and fill us with your power, so others would know the Good News of Jesus. Amen!

- **Craft:**

- Use the next page to color and cutout a scene from this story. The chariot and horse will be cut out and glued to a popsicle stick. Then, cut a slit in the other section and slide the popsicle stick through, to allow the chariot to move across the road.
- OR use the word search on the final page.

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm.

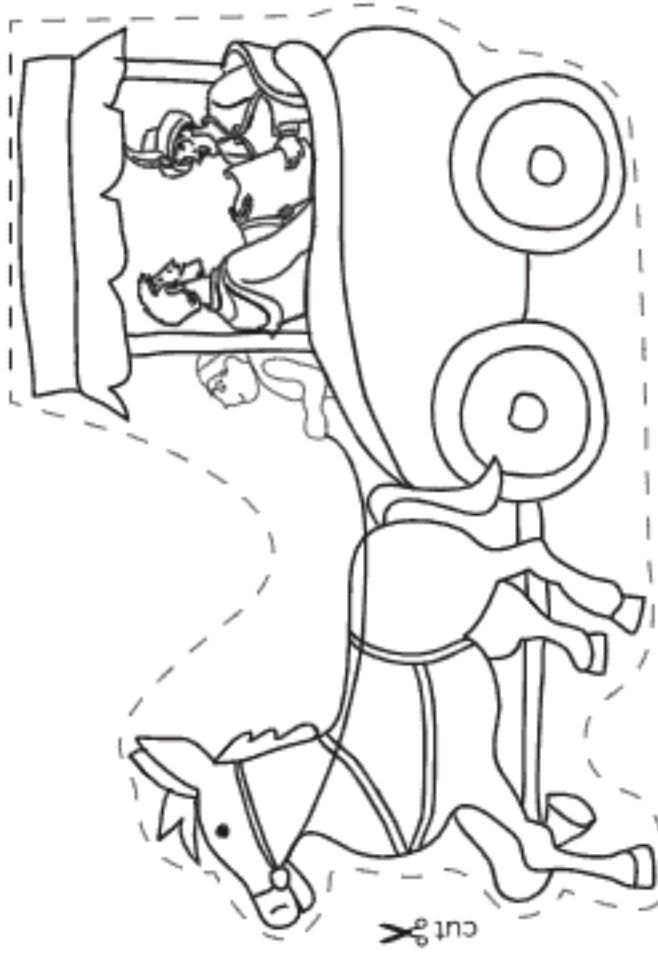
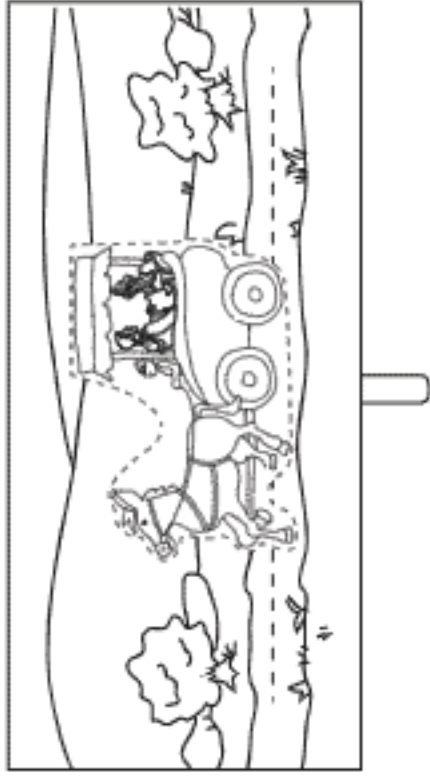
Philip was able to speak the Good News to the Ethiopian because he first listened to the Spirit. Take some time to pray and ask the Spirit to speak to you. Then sit in silence and listen.

Craft "Bible Story Scene"

Instructions: One copy per child. Cut apart Bible story puppet. Children color the scene and puppet. Tape a craft stick to the puppet and cut the slit where indicated on the Bible story scene. Children can insert the puppet and move it along in the scene.

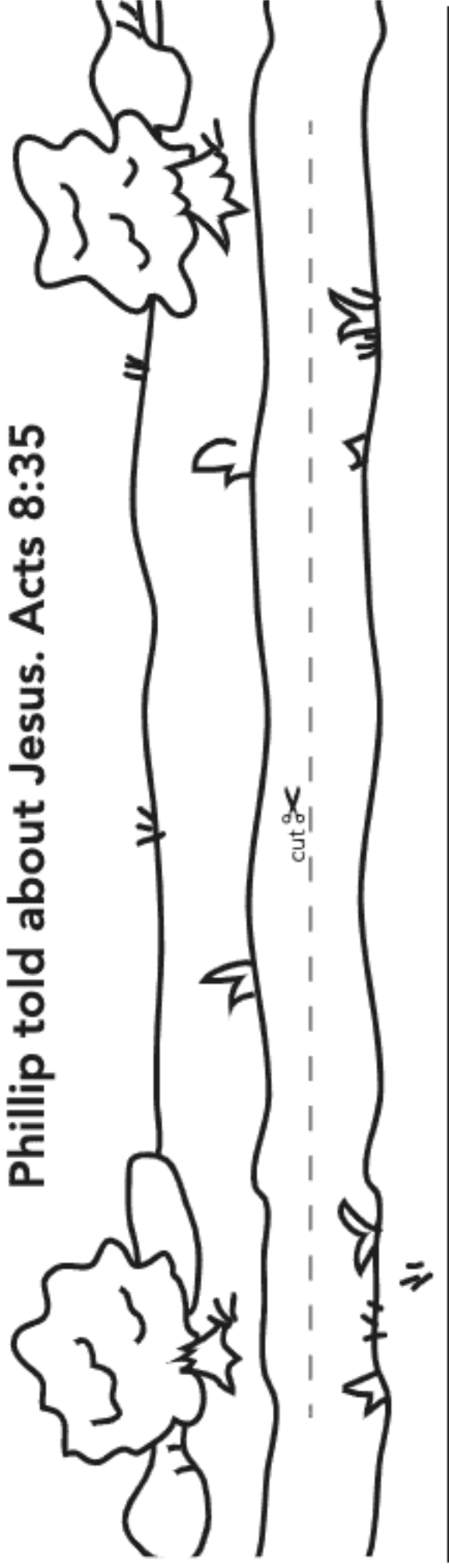
NT09 Lesson 4 Hour A Craft Time

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cut ✂

Phillip told about Jesus. Acts 8:35



cut ✂



PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN



Discover the hidden words.

Z	C	W	F	J	T	S	U	R	J	H	Y	B	J	X
B	S	E	L	Y	R	A	Z	T	X	V	J	A	H	Q
S	C	G	Q	S	E	L	R	R	O	A	V	P	O	C
T	H	R	G	S	A	V	G	A	L	J	L	T	E	W
M	Z	E	F	M	S	A	M	N	W	P	D	I	Y	H
C	E	V	E	J	U	T	X	S	T	B	X	Z	T	G
E	T	L	E	P	R	I	A	P	O	T	C	E	S	Y
I	T	S	A	F	E	O	B	O	C	Q	L	D	L	P
D	U	H	G	S	S	N	R	R	A	Z	A	G	I	P
S	C	D	I	Z	U	E	O	T	Q	C	F	L	N	U
S	H	O	Y	O	P	R	S	E	F	P	I	E	V	P
K	E	X	I	O	P	V	E	D	Y	H	R	K	X	Z
W	E	N	L	X	F	I	Q	J	P	Y	E	B	D	G
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	A	X	I	H	I	I	G	Z
Y	L	Z	R	K	W	V	I	N	I	S	A	I	A	H

Word Bank

CHARIOT
ETHIOPIAN
PHILIP
GAZA

JERUSALEM
TREASURES
BAPTIZED
TRANSPORTED

JESUS
ISAIAH
SHEEP
SALVATION

