



Life of Christ

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

Younger Verse

Change your ways and be baptized. Acts 2:38a

Older Verse

Change your ways and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a

Lesson Goals

Understand who Jesus is and choose to trust Him
 Think about what it means to be baptized
 Name some people that you can share Jesus with

Welcome Time

Have you ever seen someone be baptized? Let's see what happens today.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

A man named Philip loved Jesus and told everyone he met about Him. One day 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 got ready and went. On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a country in Africa. He was an important officer to the queen. He was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

So Philip ran toward the chariot. He heard the man reading from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.

The man was reading part of Isaiah 53. He said to Philip, "Please tell me; who is this talking about?"

Philip began to speak. He started with the same Bible verse and told the man about Jesus—that Jesus was the person he was reading about.

While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, "Look! Here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. The officer continued on his way home, full of joy.

The officer trusted Jesus that day. He wanted to be baptized to show his friends that he loved Jesus. Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. He died (as the person goes down into the water) and He rose again (as the person comes up out of the water). The water does not make you a Christian and there is nothing “holy” about the water. It is our way of telling the world that Jesus is in our life and we want other people to know about Him and trust Jesus too. It also shows people that we want to change and do things God’s way instead of our way.

The man from Ethiopia knew that he needed to be baptized. He did not wait; he was baptized right then! Have you ever wondered when a person should be baptized? Some people are baptized as babies and others when they are children or adults. Do you know the right time? Our verse tells us to be baptized when we believe in Jesus and want to follow Him. We want to “change our ways” and do things God’s way. Baptism is a picture of how we wash away our old self and come up as a new person doing things God’s way.

The first thing a person must do before they should be baptized is to believe in Jesus. They must ask Jesus to come into their lives and ask Him to erase all the wrongs that they have done. Then, a person is baptized to show others that they are serious about following Jesus and doing things His way.

Now, sometimes we don’t always do things God’s way. Even then, God tells us that if we tell Him our wrongs and ask for forgiveness, He will forgive us and clean out our sin. Do you want to know more? Talk to us today about it.

Learning Activities

Look through the pages to find activities that will help your children understand the lesson.

Memory Verse Activities

Print the words of the verse on pieces of paper in scrambled order. Help the kids unscramble or “change” the words and learn the verse.

Prayer Time

Have you been praying consistently for your kids. Please do! Have the children circle up and pray. Let each one say a one sentence prayer to God.

Snack Time/CleanUp

How are your supplies? Make a list of needed supplies as you clean up. Choose several people to help you pass out snacks. (Maybe reward children who had good behavior.)

Planning for April 28th
What does it mean to grow as a Christian?
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

Preschool Lesson For Philip and the Ethiopian

A man named Philip loved Jesus and told everyone he met about Him. One day an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. The angel said, "Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to the desert road."

So Philip got ready and went. On the road he saw a man from a country in Africa. He was an important officer to the queen. He was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the Bible.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

So Philip ran toward the chariot. He heard the man reading the Bible. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "No. I need someone to explain it to me!" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.

The man was reading part of Isaiah 53 in the Bible. He said to Philip, "Please tell me; who is this talking about?"

Philip began to speak. He started with the same Bible verse and told the man about Jesus—that Jesus was the person he was reading about.

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Ask God to help us do things His way this week.

Hands-on Activities
For
Philip and the Ethiopian

Get a cardboard box and make a chariot. Let the kids help you decorate it. Talk about how chariots were used back in Bible times. Use the chariot to act out the story.

The African man was reading the Bible in our lesson today. Encourage the kids to read the Bible this week. Give them a story to read, maybe next week's lesson on Zacchaeus in Luke 19: 1-10. Show them how to find things in the Bible.

Bible Olympics is coming soon (April 27th) Encourage your kids to learn the books of the Bible and learn memory verses. Help them see how FUN it can be to read the Bible and do things God's way.

Philip was ready to tell others about Jesus. If someone asked you what you believe, would you know? Help the kids learn how to share what they believe with others.

The African man was trustworthy. Remember, he kept the queen's money. Ask the kids if they are trustworthy. Talk about what it means to be honest and truthful.

Teachers be sensitive to those who have had a baby baptism. They may have lots of questions about it. Be careful not to hurt or wound parents as you talk about this issue. Help the kids see that baptism does not get a person into Heaven. A person must believe in Jesus and trust Him in their hearts to go to Heaven. Remind them that baptism is a picture of the change that is happening in a person's heart—cleaning out the old heart and changing to do things God's way.