

Philip & the Ethiopian

Spring • Lesson 8

Who?

Philip, angel, Ethiopian man

What?

Philip helped a man by telling him about Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)

When & Where?

During the time when many believers had left Jerusalem because of persecution, along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza

Why?

To help children know that everyone—children and grown-ups—can tell the good news about Jesus



Teacher Challenge

Read Acts 8:26-40.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Philip had a direct word through an angel to go to a certain place. When he arrived there, the Spirit told him to go to a certain chariot. We don't usually get such specific directions from God. But He has given us the direction through His Word to tell the good news about Jesus. At some point, someone told you—and it changed your life for eternity.

Goals For each child

- 1 Identify what Philip did to tell the good news about Jesus**
- 2 Name people he or she can tell about Jesus**
- 3 Ask God's help in telling about Jesus**

- Who shared the good news about Jesus with you?
- When was a time you shared the good news with someone else?

God uses us to share His good news with others. He uses us to help others learn more about Him and about how to live. What a great privilege to share about Jesus with young children! You are impacting their lives for eternity!

Bible Verse

“Tell the good news about Jesus.”

(See Acts 8:35.)

1 Play to Learn

20 to 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

Dramatic Play Center

Act out the story of Philip telling the Ethiopian about Jesus

Materials: Bible, large sheet of paper, chairs

Game Center

Play a relay game and talk about the good news that Philip told

Materials: Bible, masking tape, hula hoops

Art Center

Make cards to tell other people about Jesus

Materials: Bible, construction paper, markers, a variety of stickers

Blocks Center

Form letters of names of people they can tell about Jesus

Materials: Bible, blocks

2 Listen to Learn

10 to 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

Come Together

Materials: Everyday Life Poster 2 from *Visual Resources*

Bible Verse

Materials: Bible

Prayer

Materials: None

Song

Materials: *Preschool Music #1* CD and player

Puppet Time

Materials: Buddy puppet

Bible Story

Materials: Bible, Figures 37-40 from *Visual Resources*, sheet of paper, yarn, flannel board

3 Talk to Learn

15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

TalkTime Activity Page

Materials: Bible, Lesson 8 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

Bible Verse Game

Materials: Bible, soft ball



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time

Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, large sheet of paper, chairs.

Prepare

Roll up sheet of paper like a scroll. Arrange three chairs as seats in a chariot (for two passengers and one driver) and two chairs as horses to pull chariot.



Do

Children act out the Bible story, taking turns to pretend to drive the chariot, read the scroll while riding in the chariot, and to run after the chariot and say “Jesus loves you!”

Teaching Tip

Briefly talk about the Bible story as children play and act out the story action.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, masking tape, hula hoops.

Prepare

Use masking tape to make start and finish lines on the floor in an open area of your classroom.

Do

Divide group into even-numbered teams of no more than six. **In our Bible story today, Philip talked with a man in a chariot. Let’s pretend the hula hoops are chariots.** Give a hula hoop to first two children in each team. Children stand



inside hoop and, at your signal, walk with the hoop to the finish line, say “Jesus loves you!” and then return to the start line. Children give hoop to next two children who repeat the action.

Talk About

- **In our Bible story today, Philip walked on a road. He saw a man reading God’s Word. The man was in a chariot—a cart that is pulled by horses. Philip ran to talk to the man. Philip helped the man learn about Jesus.**
- **The man was glad to hear the good news that Jesus is God’s Son.**
- **We can all tell others the good news about Jesus. Open your Bible to Acts 8:35. The Bible says, “Tell the good news about Jesus.”**
- **Gwen, who is someone in your family? You can tell your brother about Jesus. You can say, “Jesus loves you. Jesus is God’s Son.”**

Kindergarten Challenge

Provide one or two large boxes and markers. Children draw wheels on the sides of the boxes to make the boxes look like chariots.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children see how many people can walk together in one hula hoop.

Art Center

Collect

Bible, construction paper, markers, a variety of stickers; optional—Lesson 8 Bonus Stickers from *TalkTime* activity pages.

Prepare

For each child, fold a sheet of construction paper in half to make a card. Inside the card, print “Jesus loves you.”

Do

Children trace the letters of “Jesus loves you” on their cards and decorate the cards with markers and stickers. (Optional: Children use Lesson 8 Bonus Stickers to decorate their cards.) Children tell who they will give their cards to and dictate additional messages to write on their cards.



Teaching Tip

Have an adult or teen helper available to write down children’s messages as they dictate what they want to write on their cards.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children print “Jesus loves you” on their own cards.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, blocks.

Do

Use blocks to form the first letter of your name. Then invite children to use blocks to form the first letter of each of their names. Children tell the names of people they can tell the good news about Jesus to. Help children form the first letter of each of those names as well.



Teaching Tip

Some letters may be difficult for children to form. Print letters on large sheets of paper for children to arrange blocks on top of as needed.

Talk About

• **The Bible says, “Tell the good news about Jesus.” We’re glad when we can tell others the good news about Jesus. It’s a way we can help others.**

- **I’m glad to help people know that Jesus loves them. I can tell people that Jesus loves them, and you can tell people, too!**
- **Sophia, when you go home today, who can you tell that Jesus loves them?**
- **Let’s ask for God’s help in telling others the good news about Jesus.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children use blocks to form additional letters of names.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible, Everyday Life Poster 2 and Figures 37-40 from *Visual Resources*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Buddy puppet, sheet of paper, yarn, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Prepare

Roll sheet of paper from both ends and tie with yarn to make a scroll.

Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. Show Everyday Life Poster 2. **Put your hand on your ear if you see the kittens in this poster.** After children have responded, lead them in counting the kittens as you point to them. Repeat activity, counting other items in the poster (teddy bear, children, birds, stroller, etc.). **Now let's count people to whom we can tell the good news about Jesus.** Lead children in naming friends or family members, counting on fingers as each person is named.



Kindergarten Challenge

As each item is counted, invite a volunteer to write the number on a sheet of paper.

Bible Verse

Open Bible to Acts 8:35. **The Bible says, "Tell the good news about Jesus." The good news we can tell others is that Jesus loves them.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, leading children to make a different motion each time the word "good" is said (clap, high-five, tap thighs, etc.).

Kindergarten Challenge

Repeat Bible verse, each time leaving out a different word. Children tell the missing words.

Prayer

I am glad to know the good news about Jesus! Pray with children. **Dear God, we want to help others by telling them that Jesus loves them. Please help us tell others. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Song

When we tell other people the good news about Jesus, we are hearing and obeying God's Word! Play "Hear the Word" (track 9 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you and do the actions mentioned in the song.

Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Use scroll and Figures 37-40 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Introduction

Show scroll and demonstrate how to open it. **In Bible times, God's Word was written on a scroll. Listen to hear who was reading from a scroll.** (Hold Bible open to Acts 8 as you tell the story.)



An Angel's Message

Philip was one of Jesus' friends. Philip told people that Jesus was God's Son and that Jesus loved them very much. One day God sent an angel to talk to Philip. The angel said, "Philip, go and walk along the road away from the city."

That seemed strange. Who would Philip tell about Jesus in such a lonely place? But Philip did what the angel told him. As he walked, Philip saw horses on the road. The horses were pulling a chariot. (A chariot is a cart to ride in that is pulled by horses.) Only very important people had chariots to ride in. A man from Africa was riding in that chariot. He was reading a Bible scroll.

A Bible Scroll

God spoke to Philip. He said, "Catch up with the chariot and stay beside it." Philip began to run. As he got near to the chariot, he could hear the man's voice. The man was reading out loud from the Bible scroll.

Philip ran up beside the chariot. "Do you understand what you are reading?" he asked.

"No, I don't," the man said. "I need someone to tell me what this means. Will you please explain these words to me?" So Philip climbed into the

chariot. He and the man read from the Bible scroll. "Who is this person we are reading about?" the man asked.

"We are reading about Jesus," Philip answered.

Good News

Philip began to tell the man the good news about Jesus. Philip might have said, "Jesus came to tell us about God's love and how we could be part of God's family. He died on a cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we do. But He's alive now!"

The Ethiopian's Baptism

This man from Africa knew many things, but he did not know this good news about Jesus! The man believed all that Philip told him about Jesus. Soon the chariot came near some water. The man said, "Look! Here is some water. I want to be baptized." (People are baptized to show that they believe in Jesus and have become part of God's family.) So the driver stopped the chariot. Philip and the man walked down into the water and Philip baptized the man.

The man was very happy as he rode back to his home in Africa. And God sent Philip to tell more people the good news about Jesus.

Conclusion

Philip was glad to help the man by telling him about Jesus. We can help others, too. Everyone—little kids and grown-ups—can help people by telling them the good news about Jesus. The Bible says, "Tell the good the news about Jesus." (Optional: Review story by using pages 461-466 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

As you tell the Bible story, invite children to line up and walk with you around the room, acting out a variety of motions appropriate to the story action: walking, galloping, riding in a chariot, reading a scroll, running to catch the chariot, etc.

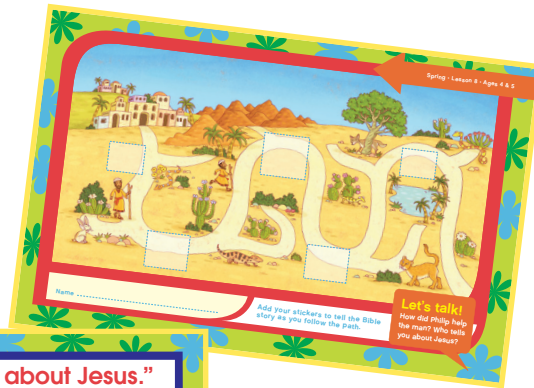
TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 8 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Bible Verse Game

Collect

Bible, soft ball.

Do

The Bible says, “Tell the good news about Jesus.” Every day we see people we can tell about Jesus. Let’s roll the ball and tell good news about Jesus to the people in our class.

Children sit in a circle. Begin game by saying, **Isaac, Jesus loves you;** then roll the ball to Isaac. Isaac repeats the sentence, naming another child in the circle and rolling the ball to him or her. Continue until each child has had a turn to roll the ball. (Give children help as needed to name others in the circle.) Vary the game by saying other good news about Jesus: “Jesus hears when you pray.” “Jesus is always with you.”



Talk About

- Who did Philip see on the road? What was the man in the chariot doing with God’s Word?
- What kind of help did the man need? How did Philip help the man? (He helped the man by telling him the good news about Jesus.)
- The Bible says, “Tell the good news about Jesus.” Who helps you learn about Jesus? Who can you help learn the good news about Jesus?
- I’m glad to tell others that Jesus is God’s Son. You can tell others this good news, too.
- Mandy, what is the name of one of your friends? What can you say to tell her that Jesus loves her?

Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to “Hear the Word” (track 9), “Come On In!” (track 1) and/or “Wave Good-Bye” (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1 CD*.

Puppet Script

Good News

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Buddy: *(Enters, breathing heavily, and collapses on LEADER's lap.)* Hi!

Leader: Hello, Buddy! My, you sound like you've been running!

Buddy: Oh, I have been! I'm kind of hot and tired. Mind if I pant a little? *(Pants loudly for a moment.)*

Leader: So tell me, Buddy, why were you running?

Buddy: Oh, I have good news to share with my friend Jake! You see, I found out that there is going to be a dog show in the park. *(Pants a little more.)*

Leader: How did you know THAT?

Buddy: I read the notice on the wall!

Leader: I'm impressed. I didn't know you can read!

Buddy: Well, *(Pants softly.)* I can read "DOG"! And I heard someone else read the rest of the sign out loud.

Leader: So why is that good news?

Buddy: Well, *(Pants softly a little more.)* Jake used to be a show dog. If he enters this show and he wins, he gets lots of good prizes and stuff!

Leader: Ooh! What kind of good prizes and stuff?

Buddy: The person reading the sign said that the winner would get his picture in the newspaper. And he would get a big blue ribbon, a month's worth of dog food and a giant bone! Can you imagine winning all that?

Leader: I might get more excited about a box of chocolates instead of a giant bone. *(Sighs.)*

Buddy: Yucky! Chocolate is no good for dogs. It makes us sick!

Leader: You are right. Those prizes sound perfect for Jake—or for any dog!

Buddy: Yep. I know they would make Jake really, really happy!

Leader: So you care about Jake and you want to be sure he has a chance to get the prizes and the good stuff!

Buddy: Yes! He is my good friend. So I want to tell him so that he has the chance to have those good things. I want to tell him the good news as soon as I can!

Leader: Hey! You aren't panting anymore! It sounds like you are feeling more rested now.

Buddy: Yep! I'm ready to run on—and share my good news with Jake! Good-bye, Teacher! I'll let you know how the dog show goes!

