

INTRODUCTION

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed crazy? Maybe you thought you could never work with children, much less teach them the Gospel! Sometimes God asks us to go completely outside our comfort zones in order to do His will. In today's Bible lesson God told Philip to do something crazy—to walk to a deserted place 60 or 70 miles away. Philip obeyed and encountered an Ethiopian treasurer on his way back home from Jerusalem. This treasurer was reading the book of Isaiah and was confused. Philip got into the chariot with the Ethiopian and explained the Gospel to him using Isaiah. The Ethiopian believed! Many believe that this man was the first to bring the Gospel to Ethiopia and the surrounding area. Even today, the Ethiopian church is one of the strongest in the world.

As you review Romans 5:8 during the memory verse teaching, emphasize the importance of sharing this Good News with others. Philip shared the Gospel with the Ethiopian; children can share the Gospel as well!

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **Witnessing:** When I understand that people are lost without God and that I have received the gift of a changed life because of God's great love, I want to show and tell them that Jesus can change their lives like He changed mine.
- **Jesus:** Savior/Substitute—Jesus is the only one who can pay the penalty for my sins because He is the only perfect man.
- **Bible:** Inerrancy—The Bible is inerrant. All of the Bible is God's true Word and every part agrees.
- **God:** Sovereign—God is sovereign (in control of everything).
- **Prayer:** Prayer is talking to God. I can talk to God.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/5dc



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Tell the children to listen for the words *turned around*. Every time you or another teacher says that phrase, the children must stand up, turn around and sit down. This will help keep the children engaged and help them get some of the wiggles out.

Hold up a road map or a GPS as you discuss directions.

If you were going on a trip, what would you need to help you figure out which way to go? (*Allow response.*) You would need a GPS or a map to show you the way, the driver would have to watch the road signs for the names of the streets and he would have to be careful to watch for important signs like “one way” or “right turn only.” What other signs would the driver need to watch for? (*Allow response.*) Stop signs, traffic lights and more! All these would help you go in the right direction.

Our Bible lesson today tells us about two men. They were each on a trip. One man knew the Lord Jesus as his Savior and he wanted to tell others about Him. The other man had heard about the true and living God and he wanted to worship Him. But he needed someone to show him the way to God—how his life could be *turned around*.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 1

This Philip was not Jesus' disciple but one of the elders chosen in Acts 6:5-6 along with Stephen.

Materials
Bible Map
(See 5-Day Club Kit.)

The first man's name was Philip. He believed on Jesus as his Savior from sin and taught God's Word to others so they could believe on Jesus too. He had been preaching and teaching in the cities and villages of Samaria. (*Show on Bible Map.*) People listened to him and many of them believed on the Lord Jesus as their Savior.

One day an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip to guide him in a new direction. The angel said, “Philip, arise and go south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Slide 2

This would be a long trip—60 or 70 miles—to a deserted place! Have you ever walked or run a mile at school? Imagine walking that for 60-70 times in a row! Why would God want Philip to go to a place where no one lived? But Philip knew God wanted him to go and that was enough for him. Wherever Philip went, he was ready to tell others about Jesus.



If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to **be ready to tell someone about Jesus.**

Slide 3

Preschool Song
“Tell the Story True,” v. 2

Materials
Word Up! Booklet
(See 5-Day Club kit.)

Say with me, “**Tell others about Jesus!**” (*Say with children.*) You can tell someone what you know: God loves him, Jesus died on the cross for his sin and rose again, and believing on Jesus is the only way to have sins forgiven. You find this Good News in the Bible! In order to be ready to tell others about Jesus, you need to know what the Bible says. (*Read 2 Timothy 2:15.*) By studying the Bible, you can be ready all the time to tell others about Jesus. Ask God to give you chances to tell others about how wonderful He is. You could tell others about Jesus by answering any questions they might have

about Him. Or maybe you will have a chance to talk about Jesus in conversations with your friends and family. Ask God to give you the words, the courage, and the opportunity to share what you know about Him.

Slide 4

Wherever Philip went, he was ready to tell others about the Lord Jesus.

So the Bible says that Philip “arose and went.” He probably walked, since that is the way many people traveled in those days.

Slide 5

Meanwhile, another man was on a trip. His trip started about 1,000 miles away from Jerusalem. He came from the country of Ethiopia, on the continent of Africa.

Slide 6

The Bible doesn’t tell us his name. It simply calls him “the Ethiopian.” We know he was a very important man in his country. He was the treasurer for the queen. The Bible tells us he came to Jerusalem to worship. He must have wanted to know the one true God. The Ethiopian was probably searching for truth because he knew something was missing in his life.



Maybe you came to club today knowing something is missing in your life. If you haven’t believed on Jesus then something is missing. God is the one who is helping you know that. You were made to have a relationship with God but there is something that stands in the way—sin. The Bible says, (*read Ecclesiastes 7:20*). That means no one had to teach you to do wrong things. You already knew. When you say mean or hurtful things to others or even when you *think* mean or hurtful things about others, those things are sin. Sin is going your own way instead of God’s way. Perhaps you and your friends shoplift, destroy property or hurt others. These things are sin. Your sin separates you from God and the punishment for sin is to be separated from Him forever. God made you to have a relationship with Him. If you don’t know Jesus as your Savior, maybe today God is helping you know that *He* is what you are missing in your life.

The Ethiopian knew something was missing in his life and he was searching for truth.

The Ethiopian wouldn’t have been able to go into the temple because he wasn’t a Jew. He could only watch God’s people, the Jews, worship at the temple. He knew *about* the one true God but left Jerusalem without really *knowing* Him. He did, however, leave with a part of Scripture—God’s Word—that he could study. In those days books were written on scrolls. Scrolls looked something like this. (*Show a scroll with Isaiah 53:7 written inside but do not read the verse until the place indicated in the lesson.*)

Materials

Bible Map
(See 5-Day Club Kit.)

Several commentators note that the Ethiopian was probably a “God-fearer” but that he would have been banned from being a true proselyte of Judaism because he was a eunuch. The commentators agree that the Ethiopian most likely went to the Temple but would have had to stay in the outer courts. He was clearly seeking the one true God as the text says, “He came to worship.”

When studying a passage, take the time to read the passage, study the commentaries then apply the passage to your life and the life of the child. In this lesson we see God drawing the Ethiopian to Himself—sending Philip to the desert to seek this man who was lost.

Preschool Application

Use the sin application visuals in the back of the flashcard book to help preschoolers identify sin in their own lives. When talking about the punishment for sin say, “The punishment God gives you and me for sin is separation (being away) from God forever.”

Preschool Song

“I Believe the Bible,” vv. 1-3

Materials

Scroll with Isaiah 53:7 written on it.

Lesson 5

Younger children may like to pretend they are driving chariots through the desert. Some could be drivers and some could be horses.

Have a child come read the words from the scroll. Explain how difficult it is to understand without someone to tell you what it means. This will engage the tactile, visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners.

Preschool Song
"God Made the Mountains High"

Slide 7

The Ethiopian climbed back into his chariot to begin the long trip back to Ethiopia. He thought about all he had heard and seen in Jerusalem. Pulling out the scroll containing the portion of Scripture, he began to read. He was reading from the book of Isaiah, you can find Isaiah in the Old Testament part of your Bible. (*Open scroll. Read or have a child read Isaiah 53:7 from scroll.*) What did the words mean? The Ethiopian had no idea what it was saying. It was like reading a mystery or a book in a language he couldn't understand.

About this same time the first man was also traveling through this deserted place. Do you remember his name? (*Allow response.*) Philip. He had been walking for a long time over the dry dusty roads. As he looked across the desert, he saw something. It was the Ethiopian's chariot!

The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip saying, "Go near and overtake this chariot." This is what Philip had been waiting for! The Bible says Philip began to run toward the chariot! Everyone stand up and let's pretend we're running to the chariot! Ready? Run! (*Do with the children.*)

Slide 8

The Ethiopian saw Philip coming. What a surprise to see someone running through the desert! The Ethiopian ordered the chariot to stop. As he got closer Philip heard the Ethiopian reading from the book of Isaiah. God, who is sovereign (in control of all things), had led the Ethiopian and Philip right to this spot at the same time, just so the Ethiopian could know the truth about who the one true God is.



Do you know the one true God brought you here today so you could hear the truth about who He is? He is sovereign—in control of all things. He is also love. The Bible says (*read 1 John 4:19*). We didn't love God first—God is the one who loved us first! He wants you to know Him! God loves you and created you in a wonderful way. He gave you the color hair and eyes you have and He knows everything about you! He not only made you but He made everything in the world. On the count of three, point to something God made! (*Do with the children.*) But people are His most special creation! God is completely pure and holy—separate from any sinful thing. But He wants you to know Him. He brought you here today so you could know the truth about who He is.

God wanted the Ethiopian to know the truth about who He is too. He led the two men to the same spot at the same time. Only our sovereign God could do that!

Philip said to him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The Ethiopian replied, "How can I unless someone helps me?"

I can just imagine how Philip must have smiled at those words. How big can you smile? (*Smile with the children.*)

Slide 9

The Ethiopian invited Philip to come and sit with him in the chariot and help him understand God's Word. Do you think Philip had to think about it? No! Philip eagerly climbed up into the chariot.

The Ethiopian man asked, "Who is this talking about?" Philip told the man about the Lord Jesus Christ by reading in the book of Isaiah—the part the Ethiopian didn't understand. (*Unroll the scroll and read Isaiah 53:7 again.*) Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God spoke through Isaiah and told what Jesus would do on the cross to save people from sin. This is called a prophecy—God telling people something that will come true in the future. This prophecy came true—it was talking about Jesus! The Ethiopian heard the truth that Jesus is the one who took the punishment for his sin.



Jesus took the punishment for your sin too. He allowed men to pound nails in His hands and feet. (*Read Revelation 1:5b.*) Jesus, the perfect Son of God, bled and died on the cross because He loves you! In the Old Testament when Isaiah lived, people offered sacrifices to God for sin. These sacrifices were animals that were killed. Those animals that bled and died could not take sin away forever. But when Jesus bled and died, it was for every wrong thing you have ever done or ever will do. Because He is the perfect Son of God, His sacrifice was enough to pay for the sins of the whole world! Jesus was taken off the cross and buried. But He didn't stay dead! Three days later He came back to life! Many people saw Jesus alive on Earth before He went back to Heaven. Jesus is alive today in Heaven ruling as King. He did all of this for you and me. Many years before Jesus died, Isaiah wrote about this in the Bible. Jesus took the punishment for your sin and mine.

Jesus took the punishment for the Ethiopian too.

CLIMAX

Now the Ethiopian understood! It was no longer a mystery to him! He knew that this Scripture was talking about the Lord Jesus. This made the Ethiopian very happy!

CONCLUSION**Slide 10**

Just then the chariot came to some water along the roadside. The Ethiopian asked, "What would keep me from being baptized?" He wanted to show that he believed on the Lord Jesus.

Philip said, "You must believe."

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" the Ethiopian replied with joy. He had known about the one true God but now he had put his trust completely in Jesus as His Savior!

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible," vv. 4-6

Some translations do not include this dialogue.

The Ethiopian gave orders to stop the horses so he and Philip could climb down from the chariot.

Philip baptized the Ethiopian right there in the desert pool. This man who was on his way back to his country was now truly going in the right direction! The Lord Jesus had saved him and he was *turned around!*

After he was baptized, a strange thing happened. Suddenly Philip disappeared! God the Holy Spirit took him to another place so he could teach others about the Lord Jesus.

The Ethiopian continued toward his country, full of joy. In his heart he knew he had been *turned around*, for he had believed on Jesus and been saved. God sent Philip to the Ethiopian so his life could go in the right direction.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and "believe in" terminology. Ask those who have questions to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

INVITATION



How about you? Are you going in the right direction? Do you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior? If not, do you realize your sin separates you from Him and Jesus died and rose again for you? (*Read Acts 16:31a.*) That means you need to believe on (trust in completely) the Lord Jesus and Him only to take away your sins. When you believe He died on the cross for your sin, you are saved—Jesus paid for your sin so you don't have to. **You can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ today.** Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk to me more about what it means to believe on Jesus, will you show me by looking up at me? (*Pause and acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. Those who looked up at me please meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can show you from God's Word what it means to be saved.