

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:26-40

INTRODUCTION

After Philip brought the gospel to the Samaritans, the angel of the Lord directed him to share the gospel with a Jew whose heart God knew was open to receiving the message about Jesus. The Ethiopian to whom Philip was sent was returning home to his high status position when God intervenes on the road to give him clarity around a passage of scripture with which he struggled.

THIS WEEK:

Discover this week from Acts 8:26-40 the miraculous means God uses to respond to one whose heart is open and tender towards him.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 8:26-40 and then answering the following questions:

1. What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do (v. 26)?
2. What details does Luke give about the Ethiopian in verses 27-28?
3. What did Philip ask the Ethiopian (v. 30)?
4. What is the OT passage the Ethiopian was reading but not understanding (vv. 33-34)?



Horne, Charles, and Julius Beyer. *The Bible and Its Story: Acts–Epistles, Apostles to Revelation*. Vol. 10. New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1910.

5. What was the Ethiopian's desire after hearing Philip explain the passage (v. 37)?
6. What was the Ethiopian's response after Philip was taken up (v. 39)?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

7. A eunuch is a male who has had his testicles removed in order to perform specific social functions, often performing the position of royal guard over harems. What status did eunuchs hold in Jewish society (Deut. 23:1)?
8. How does 1 Sam. 16:7 and Jer. 17:10 possible explain why God sent Philip to the eunuch?
9. What can explain the joy the eunuch experienced in verse 39 (Psa. 32:1-2)?
10. Three chapters down from the OT passage the eunuch was reading in the chariot is Isaiah 56:3-8. What things in this passage would have been a comfort to him after being baptized?

APPLICATION *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

11. Do you think it is possible someone can get saved apart from hearing God's word? Why or why not?
12. What does this passage imply God will do when someone responds to the light he gives a person?
13. What principles about evangelism could we glean from this passage?
14. What stories or experiences can you share that are analogous to what happened in this passage?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

15. What does this passage reveal about God?
16. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
17. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them Acts 8:26-40. Use the following questions to have a discussion about how God knows our secret desires and actions.

1. What did Philip do when he saw the Ethiopian eunuch's chariot?
Possible answer: Philip ran up to the chariot to meet the Ethiopian eunuch.
2. How did the Ethiopian eunuch feel after Philip explained the Scriptures to him?
Possible answer: The eunuch felt joyful and asked to be baptized right away.
3. What happened to Philip after he baptized the Ethiopian eunuch?
Possible answer: The Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch didn't see him again.
4. How does Isaiah 53:7-8 relate to the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch?
Possible answer: Isaiah 53:7-8 talks about Jesus being led like a lamb to the slaughter, which Philip explained to the eunuch as referring to Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.
5. What does Psalm 119:105 tell us about the Scriptures and their importance in Philip's encounter?
Possible answer: Psalm 119:105 says that God's word is like a lamp to guide our steps, which shows how Philip used the Scriptures to guide the eunuch to understand Jesus.
6. How does Matthew 28:19-20 connect to Philip baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch?
Possible answer: In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands his followers to baptize new believers and teach them his commands, which Philip did with the eunuch.
7. How can you be like Philip in sharing the good news of Jesus with others?
Possible answer: I can tell my friends and family about Jesus and how much he loves them.
8. Why is it important to listen to others and help them understand God's word, like Philip did with the Ethiopian eunuch?
Possible answer: Listening to others and helping them understand God's word can bring them closer to Jesus and make them happy.

Take some time to listen to your child's answer and then lead them in a prayer that calls upon God to help the them yield to him and depend on his strength to be bold for him.

WORD FIND

Acts 8:26-40

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

So, after they had **testified** and **spoken** the **word** of the **Lord**, they **traveled back** to **Jerusalem**, **preaching** the **gospel** in **many villages** of the **Samaritans**. An **angel** of the **Lord** **spoke** to **Philip**: “Get up and go south to the **road** that goes down from **Jerusalem** to Gaza.” (This is the desert **road**.) So he got up and **went**. **There** was an **Ethiopian** man, a **eunuch** and 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**, and **said**, “Do you understand what you’re **reading**?” “How can I,” he **said**, “unless **someone** guides me?” So he invited **Philip** to **come** up and sit with him. Now the **Scripture** passage he was **reading** was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation

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 **eunuch** **said**, “Look, **there’s water**. What would keep me from being **baptized**?” So he ordered the **chariot** to stop, and both **Philip** and the **eunuch** **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 **eunuch** did not see him any longer but **went** on his way rejoicing. **Philip** appeared in Azotus, and he was **traveling** and preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.