



Be Essential for Jesus

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Philip and the Ethiopian Official

Peace – God is always with me

Scripture

Acts 8:26-39

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. "Go south to the desert road," he said. "It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position in charge of all the wealth of the Kandake. Kandake means queen of Ethiopia. This official had gone to Jerusalem to worship. On his way home he was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot. Stay near it." So Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip asked. "How can I?" he said. "I need someone to explain it to me." So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Here is the part of Scripture the official was reading. It says, "He was led like a sheep to be killed. Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off, he did not open his mouth. When he was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial. Who can say anything about his children? His life was cut off from the earth." The official said to Philip, "Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?" Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official said, "Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?" He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water. Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy.

Bible Story - Available on YouTube through Aldersgate United Methodist Church and through the Susquehanna Conference at susumc.org



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Family Chat Questions

- Have there been times when you didn't listen?
- Why was it so important for Philip to immediately obey God's instructions?
- What is our "instruction manual" for following God?
- Why is it important to learn about Jesus?
- Who helps you understand more about Jesus?
- Have you ever told anyone about what you believe and how did they react?
- Where can you teach others about Jesus?
- Is it ok to ask questions about God?

Family Activities

- Mirror Message: On a mirror or glass surface, use an erasable marker or toothpaste to write this week's message, so that everyone can see it and remember (Peace – God is always with me)
- Create a Family Cipher – A cipher is a coded message. Create a code or use symbols to represent letters and then send messages back and forth. Check out our example at the end of the packet. Want to learn more? Check this out <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/crack-the-code-make-a-caesar-cipher/>
- Play a Game of Bible Pictionary -Break into teams or go one against one and take turns drawing and guessing people, places or things from the Bible (i.e. the cross, the desert, a Bible, Noah's ark, a dove, a chariot, baptism, etc...)
- Scavenger Hunt – Complete the Bible story based scavenger hunt, found at the end of the packet.



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Children's Independent Activities

- Make Your Own Chariot – using an old box, a laundry basket, your bed or a couch; decorate your chariot and pretend to be driven around just like the Ethiopian Official.
- Thank Your Teachers – Just like Philip, our teachers help us to learn and understand new things! Create a thank you note for your school teacher and/or your Sunday School teachers.
- Help Someone – We all need help sometimes. Who can you help today? Maybe your mom or dad, maybe a neighbor, or maybe a friend. Volunteer to water their flowers, carry something for them, or ask what task that they need to have done that you can do.
- Thank a Truck Driver – Remember that chariot that the Ethiopian Official was riding in? Well someone had to be driving it! Today create a thank you poster, that your adult can put on their car window or on a house window, thanking all the truck drivers that continue to supply our stores with what we need.
- Telephone – God is always with us and that means that we can talk to him through prayer and ask him questions at any time. Create your own “phone” with two plastic cups, two paperclips and a piece of string. Have an adult poke a hole into the bottom for each cup. Connect the cups by putting an end of the string through the hole in the bottom of each cup and tying it to a paperclip on the inside. Have a sibling or friend join you and take turns asking each other questions through the “phone.” Take it farther with a grownup and learn the science behind this activity.
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/talk-through-a-string-telephone-bring-science-home/>
- Activity Sheets – activities and coloring sheets are included at the end of the packet.



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Snack Time

- Create an Edible Chariot – use a teddy graham or gummy bear, an animal cracker horse, a large marshmallow, and two gummy Life Savers as wheels.
<http://ajoyfulchaos.blogspot.com/2012/12/marshmallow-buggy.html?m=1>
- Try a different fruit or vegetable every day of the week. Try and make it special by adding a dip or topping.
- Find an easy recipe in a cookbook or online that your kids can make by themselves.

Closing Prayer

God help us to learn more about You every day. We know that this will bring us peace because You are always with us. Help us to live like Jesus taught us to live. We thank You for sending Jesus to give us forgiveness and to teach us how to love others. We would like to pray for all of our teachers and for everyone who makes sure we have what we need delivered to our homes and all the stores. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Dive in Deeper with these Ideas and Resources

- Jesus taught using parables. Learn about parables, share what you've learned, and then try making your own.
 - Saddleback Kids has parable lessons for early childhood and elementary aged kids
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5aPdmniG3y9lID2oAwXJggCWvkydh6l>
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5aPdmniG3y_XJmJZEptvytOdaIvL2lQZ
 - Check out some of the fun Veggie Tales videos on Parables
<https://www.youtube.com/user/BigIdeaInc>
- Families with preschool aged children may enjoy this slideshow story about Philip and the Ethiopian Official <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/philip-ethiopian/>
- Participate in your church's Family Challenge or Mission Project (where offered).
- YouVersion Bible app and The Bible app for kids, www.youversion.com or www.bible.com
 - YouVersion has many studies available for all ages
 - Try Next Steps for Kids 4 day study for kids
 - Try Ancora Kids Meet a Superhero! 3 day Bible study for kids
- Guardians of Ancora – free Bible based gaming app for kids ages 8-11yrs,
<https://guardiansofancora.com/>
- Parent Cue – a parenting, faith-based, resource, www.theparentcue.org
- God for Kids app – helps parents and kids discover who God is, www.godforkidsapp.com
- Adventure Bible – web-based access to scripture and games for kids, www.adventurebible.com



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Create a Family Cipher Example

Try this Caesar Cipher to make your own coded messages																						
the alphabet	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m									
CODED ALPHABET	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P									
the alphabet	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z									
CODED ALPHABET	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C									
Here is an example																						
The sentence:	i		l	o	v	e		j	e	s	u	s										
in code:	L		O	R	Y	H		M	H	V	X	V										
Decode this sentence																						
	J	R	G		L	V		D	O	Z	D	B	V		Z	L	W	K		P	H	

The decoded message above: God is always with me



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Scavenger Hunt – Philip and the Ethiopian Official

After reading this week's scripture and watching the Bible story, see how many of these items you can find.

- Which way is South?
- Book of Isaiah
- Ethiopia and Jerusalem on a map
- Sand or dry/sandy dirt
- 3 different water sources
- A picture of a chariot
- A picture of a scroll
- A quiet place where you can find peace with God
- A story about Jesus
- Find the words to thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit



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Activity Sheets





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The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.
Acts 8:31



**KIDS
CORNER**