

## Family Lesson 78

**Principle:** Sharing faith

**Bible Character(s):** Philip and the Ethiopian

**Scripture Reference:** Acts 8:26-40

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Last week, we talked about being bold and strong in the choices we make and in telling others about Jesus. We saw that we might suffer when we share our faith and what Jesus has done in our life. Stephen died because he continued to speak the truth. We saw how God equipped, or gave, Stephen the strength to stand up and speak the truth. We saw God supply Stephen with exactly what he needed to face death. God gives us everything we need to share our faith with others, no matter what kind of suffering we might experience.

Today, we are going to see how God supplies or equips Philip with what he needs to tell someone else about Jesus. Let's begin in Acts 8 [NLT].

#### Acts 8:26-30a

*<sup>26</sup> As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."<sup>27</sup> So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,<sup>28</sup> and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was*

*reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

*<sup>29</sup> The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."*

*<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

**God gives Philip two instructions. He tells him to go south to the desert road towards Gaza, and then he tells him to go to the chariot and stay near it. Philip obeys both instructions immediately. He doesn't know why God is asking him to do this, but he doesn't question God's instructions. He obeys immediately.**

Let's keep reading to see why God wants Philip there.

#### Acts 8:30b-31

*Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"*

*<sup>31</sup> The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.*

**Philip does not stand back and let the man start the conversation. He steps in and asks him, "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip does not know this man, but he knows that God had placed him in this situation. He is bold; he trusts God and obeys him. Philip explains the Scripture and tells this man who Jesus is and what he has done. He acts with boldness by asking a question to get the conversation started.**

#### Acts 8:32-35

*<sup>32</sup> The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:*

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth."*

<sup>33</sup> *He was humiliated and received no justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.*

<sup>34</sup> *The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?”<sup>35</sup> So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.*

**The Ethiopian man is reading from Isaiah 53:7-8. Philip does not force the man to listen. He answers his questions and explains who Jesus is and what he did. Philip comes alongside him and tells him the truth he knows. He doesn't force him to believe; he just presents him with the truth. This is what we are called to do as well.**

After reading and reviewing Philip's response to God and to the man, read the following statements with your child to outline Philip's approach to sharing his faith. Which statements are true? Which are false?

- **He gave the man a snack.**
- **He ran away.**
- **He told the man lies.**
- **He made himself available.**
- **He did not talk to anyone.**
- **He did not listen to God.**
- **He played hide-and-seek with the man.**
- **He shared what he knew about Jesus.**
- **He was obedient to God's leading.**
- **He asked the man a question.**
- **He showed interest in someone else.**
- **He skateboarded with the man.**
- **He showed the man he cared.**

**We have seen how different people have shared their faith with others over the past couple of weeks. Philip was walking along a road when God provided him with an opportunity to share his faith with others. Walking along a road is a pretty ordinary thing to do! We need to be open to opportunities to share as we go about our ordinary life. Let's review the true cards and see how Philip began sharing.**

- **1st – He was obedient to God's leading.**
- **2nd – He made himself available.**
- **3rd – He asked the man a question. He showed interest in someone else.**
- **4th – He shared what he knew.**

**Let's continue reading.**

### **Acts 8:36-38**

<sup>36</sup> *As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?”<sup>38</sup> He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.*

**This man believes the truth that Philip has spoken. He believes in who Jesus is and what Jesus had done. Philip baptizes this man because he believes. His baptism is an outward symbol of what this man believes. Baptism does not provide salvation; it is only a symbol of what someone believes.**

Go through each of the scenarios with your child to examine the life of a believer. Read a statement and ask them if it is true or false in describing the life of a believer. You can even have them stand for “true” and sit for “false.” Then, look up the Scripture references and read them out loud.

### **Acts 8:39-40**

<sup>39</sup> *When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.*

**What would you think if someone that you were talking with just disappeared? Would you be surprised or scared? The man was not scared or fearful; instead, he went on his way full of joy.**

**Philip was obedient, available, and caring. He shared what he knew, and God used that to change this man's heart. The man believed**

**the truth that Philip spoke. We are called to be obedient, available, and caring. We are also called to share what we know.**

Have your child read the Scripture passage to examine the Isaiah prophecy and to better understand who Jesus is and how he is the answer people are searching for. You can choose to act it out the passages using a towel or pillowcase for a turban, a rope, and chairs. Use the chairs to set up a chariot, have one person use the towel as a turban to represent the Ethiopian man, and another person can use the rope around their waist to represent Philip. When the Ethiopian asks what the Isaiah passage means, have your child try to explain the passage and then share what they believe.

### Isaiah 53 Passage

*“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.  
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.  
He was humiliated and received no justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”*

**Sometimes, it is hard to understand what the Bible means. It can be even harder to explain what it means to other people. We can trust that God will give us the words to say to other people, but he also wants us to study his Word and learn the truth. We do that here in our lessons, but you can also do this on your own as well. It is very important that we spend time praying and reading God’s Word. We need to ask questions when we do not understand so that we can continue to learn.**

Help your child understand the meaning of baptism. Talk through the meaning of baptism and remind your child of the people with whom they can share their faith, as well as what baptism is and means. **Baptism is a symbol that you have repented of your sins and believe in Jesus as your Savior, and it is an act of obedience to God’s command.** Parents, if you have questions about you and/or your children being baptized, check

out [www.gracechurchsc.org/connect/baptisms](http://www.gracechurchsc.org/connect/baptisms) for more information!

**After Philip shared his faith with the Ethiopian man, the Ethiopian man asked to be baptized. He wanted to show publicly that he had put his faith and trust in Jesus as Savior. He left his old life behind and began a new life as a follower of Christ. Baptism is not what saves us from our sins—Jesus is the one who died for our sins so we can have eternal life. We are called first to repent of our sins and turn to Jesus and then to be baptized. Baptism is a public display that you believe Jesus is your Savior; it is a symbol that you have died to your old self and have been given a new life in Christ. Baptism is an act of obedience in doing what God asks us to do, and it allows us to identify with Jesus and what he did for us. At Grace, we have an opportunity coming up for you to be baptized if you feel God leading you to do so. If you feel that God wants you to be baptized, talk with your parents and have them help lead you through the process.**

### Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for what Jesus did for us, and ask him to help us be bold and strong in sharing our faith with others.

### Activity

“Movie Ticket” - the purpose of this activity is to reinforce that we are to be obedient and share what we know; we don’t have to be fearful of not knowing the answers because Jesus is with us.

### Supplies:

Piece of paper or notecard  
Markers, colored pencils or crayons

On a piece of paper, have your child draw a movie ticket and list people with whom they can share the Good News on the ticket.

When we see a movie we like, we are quick to tell others all about it and encourage them to go see it. We should be the same way with our faith. When God does something in our lives, we should be quick to share that with others. We should be more excited to look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ than we are to tell someone about a movie. What do you believe? What would you tell others? We do not have to be intimidated about knowing all the answers or knowing where every book of the Bible is. We need to be willing and available to share what we know. God gives us all we need to be bold and confident like Stephen and Philip in sharing our faith with others.

