



Philip and the Ethiopian

Lesson Aim: To know the Holy Spirit makes us ready to tell others about Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 8:26-31, 34-40

What He Has Done: God led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus.

Key Verse: Acts 8:35

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 53:7-8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 4:6b

"I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28a

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:3-11	Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit	To know the Holy Spirit's power helps us to be witnesses.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-8, 32-33, 36-39, 41	Jesus kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.	To know that all who believe in Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3	Peter and John Defend Jesus' Name, Acts 3:6-8; 4:1-4, 7-12, 18-21	Jesus healed the man who could not walk when Peter called on His name.	To understand the power of the name of Jesus.
4	The Stoning of Stephen, Acts 6:5a, 8; 7:54-60, 8:1-3	God strengthened Stephen to defend and die for the faith.	To trust the Holy Spirit will help us be faithful.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-31, 34-40	God led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus.	To know the Holy Spirit makes us ready to tell others about Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Deuteronomy 4:7-10. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for giving us the Bible. Help us teach the children Your Word so they have the knowledge to tell others about Jesus. Give them confidence to share what they know with others. Amen."



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Follow The Voice	2 blindfolds, 2 beanbags
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Father, I Adore You" "Spirit of the Living God"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:169	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 5 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 8:26-31, 34-40	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 53:7-8	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Map of Africa (with location of Ethiopia) W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might"
	Up to 10	Snack: Alphabet Facts About Jesus	Alphabet-shaped snack (cereal, frosted letters on sugar cookies), large sheet of paper, marker
	Up to 10	Game: Scripture Search	Bible, index cards or paper, pencil or marker
	Up to 10	Craft: Good News Message	Template (available at ResourceWell.org), sturdy paper, yarn (or thin cord or heavy string), markers or crayons, scissors, glue
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Hand Motions	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Around the World	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, 25 pictures of the earth, labels or slips of paper
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite Bible story to explain to someone else?

GAME: FOLLOW THE VOICE

Purpose: To introduce the story of Philip following the Holy Spirit's direction, obeying, and telling the Ethiopian about Jesus.

Supplies: 2 blindfolds, 2 beanbags (See Teacher's Tip.)

Teacher's Tip: To make a beanbag, place a handful of dried beans or sand inside a resealable plastic bag and seal it closed with tape or glue, or create a pouch with fabric, insert the beans or sand and sew it closed.

Large Group Option: Provide additional blindfolds and beanbags and choose more than two children to play each turn. Another option would be to divide the group. Have a helper play the game with another group in another area or room.

Extra Challenge: To add an extra challenge, have the other children talk to each other at the same time the two children are listening for your voice. Help the children reflect on the difficulty of hearing you through the noise. Discuss how people and things can keep them from following the Holy Spirit's leading when they are not spending time praying, worshiping God, reading their Bibles, and doing other things to focus their attention on God.

Who thinks they can throw a beanbag to me while blindfolded and just by paying attention to my voice? Let's see who can get their beanbag the closest.

Directions:

1. Choose two children to take the first turn. Children stand in the center of the play area.
2. Give a bean bag to each of the two children and help them each put on a blindfold.
3. Walk to a different spot in the play area.
4. Ask the two children to throw the beanbags to you by listening to the sound of your voice. Keep talking to help them determine which way to turn and throw. Have the children throw underhanded to keep from throwing it too hard.
5. Stay still until both children remove their blindfolds and see how close their beanbags came to where you are standing.
6. Choose two more children to play.
7. Continue playing until each child has a turn. Stand in a different location each time.

We can't see the Holy Spirit, but He will lead us in our thinking if we are paying attention. Let's find out how Philip paid attention and obeyed the Holy Spirit.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

The Holy Spirit helped Philip teach a man about a Bible story. The man was having trouble understanding what it was about, so Philip explained it to him. Let's give thanks for the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us so we may point others to Jesus.



We worship the Holy Spirit who gives us power. In today's Bible story, we will learn how the Holy Spirit helped Philip explain Bible verses to a man from Africa and tell him the good news about Jesus. Philip did not do these things by his own might or power, but by the Holy Spirit. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might."

As we collect today's offering, let's sing about the good news. Sing: "For God So Loved the World" while collecting the offering. **The good news is that all who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior are forgiven and have life forever close with God.** Sing: "I Am the Way."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as Savior.



In today's story, the man didn't understand the meaning of the Bible verses he was reading. Philip explained the meaning to him. We can ask God to help us understand His Word so we can share it with others. Let's make this Bible verse our prayer. Read Psalm 119:169.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 5.



Philip explains the good news

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we saw that the power of the Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak boldly about Jesus and pray for the men who were throwing stones at him. After Stephen died, many believers moved to other towns for their own safety. They spread the word about Jesus everywhere they went. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Philip and the Ethiopian. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

After the stoning of Stephen, Philip went to Samaria where he boldly spoke about Jesus. Today, we will learn how Philip followed the direction of the Holy Spirit and was able to explain a Bible story to help a man believe in Jesus. The man was on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. He was returning to his home in Ethiopia, which is in Africa. If a map is available, point out Jerusalem, Gaza, and Ethiopia.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 8:26-31, 34-40.

Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go! Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Acts 8:35.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 8:26-31, 34-40.



The Spirit helps us

THE WAY

How do you know the Holy Spirit was with Philip in this story? (The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the chariot. After the baptism, He took Philip to a new town to tell others about Jesus.) **Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit leading you to do something or speak to someone?** (Children respond.) **The Holy Spirit speaks to believers in different ways. Most of us don't hear a voice speaking aloud; we hear Him in our hearts and minds, giving us clear direction. Some of us just feel the Holy Spirit urging us to do something. Learning about God, praying, and knowing God's Word will help you recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

How can you tell the man wanted to understand more about God? (He was reading the Bible and asking questions.) **What part of the Bible was the man reading in his chariot?** (The book of Isaiah.) **What did Philip do when he joined the man in the chariot?** (Philip explained that the verses were describing Jesus. He told him the good news about Jesus.)

List three of the things God did that day to help the Ethiopian man understand and believe in Jesus? (Sent an angel to Philip, sent Philip to the chariot, helped Philip explain the Bible verses and tell the man about Jesus.) **How does this story show you God loved the man from Ethiopia?** (God loved him so much that He put everything and everyone in place so this man would believe in Jesus and be saved.) **The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus. Just as He did with Philip and the Ethiopian, the Holy Spirit makes our hearts ready to hear the good news and to share it.**

What did the man do when they came to some water? (He asked to be baptized. He was baptized and went on his way rejoicing.) **The fact that Philip baptized him shows the man must have told Philip he now believed in Jesus. What was the job of the man from Ethiopia?** (He was an officer to the Queen of Ethiopia.) **What do you think the man did when he returned to his home in Ethiopia?** (Children respond.) **Today, many people believe the man from Ethiopia is the one who first brought the good news about Jesus to Africa! How does this story show you how very important it is to God that people everywhere understand the Bible and the good news about Jesus?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Philip knew Jesus was called the Lamb of God. He knew Jesus died for our sins, which are called transgressions. Think about those things as you read the verses from Isaiah that Philip explained to the man from Ethiopia. Notice how Isaiah's words point us to the way Jesus gave His life for us.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 53:7-8. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Isaiah 53:7-8.

After he explained the Bible verses, Philip told the man the good news about Jesus. How would you explain the good news about Jesus? (Children respond.) **The good news is God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to die for us and be our Savior. Whoever believes in Jesus will have life forever close with God.**

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a map of Africa. Let's look at where Ethiopia is. Take this home and show everyone where the man traveled on the trip that changed his life. Keep this map to remember how we can change the world as Philip did, by just telling someone what we know about Jesus.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #5. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Philip reading the Bible with the Ethiopian man in his chariot.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: ALPHABET FACTS ABOUT JESUS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while reviewing what they know about Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Alphabet-shaped snack (cereal, frosted letters on sugar cookies), large sheet of paper, marker

Teacher Tip: If an alphabet-shaped snack is unavailable, substitute another favorite snack. Have the children use the first letter of their names to create the list of things they know about Jesus. Challenge older children to recite all the previously given facts before sharing a new fact.

Philip told the Ethiopian what he knew about Jesus. Let's use our snack to help us brainstorm what we know about Jesus.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Each child chooses a letter from the snack and shares a fact about Jesus which begins with that letter. Examples: A-Alive (Jesus is alive), B-Bethlehem (born in Bethlehem), C-Cross (died on a cross), F-Forgives (forgives our sins), H-Healed (healed the sick), L-Loves (loves me), R-Rose (rose from the dead).

GAME: SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Purpose: Children learn three elements that helped point the Ethiopian man to Jesus.

Supplies: For each team, supply a Bible, three index cards or sheets of paper, and a pencil or marker.

Prepare: None

In today's story, the man from Ethiopia wanted to understand the Bible verses he was reading. After the angel sent Philip down the road to Gaza, God used three people or things to help the Ethiopian know Jesus. In this game, we will see which team can find those three people or things along with the Bible verse where they are described.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into teams of 3-6 children.
2. Give supplies to each team.
3. **On my signal, each team will search through Acts 8:27-31, 34-35 to find the three people or things who helped the Ethiopian know Jesus. Write your team's answers on the three cards. You have 60 seconds. Go!**
4. When the 60 seconds has passed, gather and compare answers. The correct answers are:
 - The Holy Spirit: He led Philip to stay near the chariot. (Acts 8:29)
 - God's Word (also called Scripture or Bible): The man read verses in Isaiah. (Acts 8:32-33)
 - Philip: He was willing to share the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:35)

The things you found in these Bible verses are still helping people know Jesus today. Remember, it takes the Holy Spirit, God's Word, and someone like you who is ready to share what you know about Jesus with someone who has a willing heart.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: GOOD NEWS MESSAGE

Purpose: Children will listen to and obey the teacher's directions to find the hidden message.

Supplies: Template (available at ResourceWell.org), sturdy paper, yarn (or thin cord or heavy string), markers or crayons, scissors, glue

Prepare: Cut yarn to 42-inch lengths. Print a copy of the template for each child or print the Good News Message on sturdy paper.

Teacher Tip: Younger children may find it easier to connect the dots with a marker and then follow the marker line to glue on the yarn.

Who led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus? (The Holy Spirit.) **What book in the Bible did Philip help the Ethiopian understand?** (The book of Isaiah.) **Philip listened to the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to you through the words of the Bible. Sometimes He speaks to you through prayer. He can help us talk to others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words to say!**

Let's practice listening again. Listen to how I tell you to lay down and glue the yarn. When you finish, you will discover a verse in the Bible which explains the good news about Jesus.

Directions:

1. **Connect the first set of dots with a thin line of glue. Start with 1 and end with 5.**
2. **Starting with the end of your yarn on dot 1, lay the yarn on the glue. Cut the yarn after dot 5. What letter did you make? (J.)**
3. **Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each letter or number. Connect the dots as follows:**
 - O: 1-8 and then back to 1
 - H: 1-2-3, back to 2, over to 4, then 6, up to 5, then 6-7
 - N: 1-7
 - 3: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9
 - 1: 1-2-3
 - 6: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, then 4
4. **Let's read this verse of good news from the Bible. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**
5. Children may decorate the message with stories they know about Jesus.
6. **Share your message about Jesus with a friend! Be sure to read the verse together!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.” Zechariah 4:6b
“I will pour out My Spirit on all people.” Joel 2:28a

GAME: MEMORY VERSE HAND MOTIONS

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster

This year, we are going to learn about God’s promises. Our new Bible Memory Verse tell us one of God’s promises. God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people. We can’t do the great things God wants us to do by just using our own might and power. We need God’s help, so He promised to send us a special helper—His Holy Spirit. Let’s learn some motions to help us remember Zechariah 4:6b and Joel 2:28a.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. As you say the Bible Memory Verse together, demonstrate the corresponding actions:
 - **Not by might** (Flex arm muscles up.)
 - **Nor by power** (Flex arm muscles down.)
 - **But by My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
 - **Says the Lord Almighty** (Sign for the word “Lord”: Make an “L” shape with thumb and index finger, cross “L” shape from shoulder to hip as royal sash.)
 - **I will pour out** (Pretend to hold up a jug and pour.)
 - **My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
 - **On all people** (Spread arms wide.)
3. Assign each child (or a group of children) one phrase and action.
4. Seat children in a circle.
5. In order, each child (or group) quickly stands, says and does their motion, and then sits.
6. Repeat step 5 and challenge children to be faster each time.

Option: Divide the children into two teams and make it a race.

GAME: AROUND THE WORLD

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, labels or slips of paper, 25 pictures of the earth (Pictures can be computer printouts, magazine cutouts, or your own sketches. They do not need to be identical.)

Prepare: Display Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster. Write one word or verse reference of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse on a label or slip of paper. Attach each label to an earth picture. Place the earth pictures word side up and in a large circle approximately 1-foot apart from each other.

Directions:

1. Each child takes a turn stepping on the pictures in order, saying each word as he or she steps.
2. Each time the children repeat the game, turn over some of the pictures so children must remember the missing words when they step on those pictures.
3. The goal is for the children to continue playing until all the pictures are upside down and they are able to remember all the words of the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) A man who could not walk begged Peter and John for money; Peter gave the man something better. Whose name did Peter call on to heal the man? (Jesus.) What did the man do after he was healed? (He walked, jumped and praised God.) Why do believers today pray in Jesus' name? (Jesus is the One who has the power to answer the prayer.)

The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He fed the hungry and did many miracles. He spoke boldly about Jesus. Some people did not want to hear the truth about Jesus, so they threw stones at Stephen. What did he see when he looked up to the sky? (Jesus and God the Father standing in heaven.) What were Stephen's last words about the men who were hurting him? (He said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them.")

Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) Philip saw a man from Ethiopia, a country in Africa. He followed the Holy Spirit's directions to run and stay near the man's chariot. What did Philip do when the man asked him for help understanding the Bible story he was reading? (He sat and read the Bible with the man. Then, he explained the story was about Jesus.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)