



Philip and the Ethiopian

Lesson Aim: To know we can tell Bible stories to others.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 8:27-31, 34-35

What He Has Done: God led Philip to teach the man from Africa about Jesus.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Tell me, please."

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 the Holy Spirit would come.	To know that sometimes we must wait for God's gifts.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-4	Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit.	To know God keeps His promises.
3	Peter and the Lame Man, Acts 3:1-10	God healed the man who could not walk.	To praise God for healing us.
4	Stephen Serves Others, Acts 6:1-8	God helped Stephen serve others by feeding the hungry.	To know we can serve others by feeding the hungry.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:27-31, 34-35	God led Philip to teach the man from Africa about Jesus.	To know we can tell Bible stories to others.

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	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a Bible
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Tell me, please."
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: "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Hymn Suggestions "Hallelu, Hallelu" "How Great Is Our God" "I've Got the Joy"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 5
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 8:27-31, 34-35	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 8:31 Visual: Bible
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Teaching Bible	Standard-size sturdy black and white paper, heart stickers, glue or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Tell Me the Story	Bible, 2 chairs
		Game: Jesus Loves You	None
		Snack: Tell Me a Story	Any favorite snack (or a snack traditionally associated with story time in your area)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 5 Color This Story: "Philip Teaches about Jesus"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 8:27-31, 34-35	None
	Up to 10	Game: Cloud Hop	Sturdy white paper or paper plates
	Up to 10	Game: God's Blanket for Us	Large blanket
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about telling others about Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Tell me, please

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a Bible. **Let this stamp or sticker of a Bible help you remember Philip told the man from Africa (Ethiopia) what the Bible says about Jesus. Today's Whisper Verse is "Tell me, please."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Tell me, please."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "Tell"** Place the index finger of the right hand on the throat and drag it forward past the chin and outward from the face.
- "me,"** Point to self.
- "please."** The open hand circles over the heart.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Tell me, please," Acts 8:34. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who gives us power. The Holy Spirit helps us understand stories in the Bible. He helps us tell them to others. It is not by our own might or power that we can understand and tell the Bible stories, but it is by God's Spirit. Sing: “Not by Might.”

Philip met a man in a far away land called Ethiopia. Ethiopia is in Africa. This man from Africa was reading a Bible story and he needed some help to understand it. He asked Philip to please tell him what the story was about. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “Tell me, please.” Include sign language.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello can tell us more about the man from Africa. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 5.



We can tell Bible stories to others when we are at home or at church, when we are inside or outside, or wherever we go. The Holy Spirit is with us to help us tell others about Jesus. He is with us now as we collect our offering. Sing: “I Am with You” while collecting the offering.

When we tell others about Jesus, it makes God very happy. God wants everyone to know about Him and understand how much He loves us. Then, everyone can praise Him! Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”



Philip teaches the man

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God helped Stephen serve others. Today, we will see how Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 8:31.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 8:27-31, 34-35

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a Bible. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- Philip was walking down the road one day,
- A man from Africa he did see.
- Philip ran to the man as fast as he could,
- For the Bible he was trying to read.

- Philip asked, "Do you understand this?"
- "Tell me, please!" said the man.
- Philip told him all about Jesus
- When they read the Bible story again!



The man from Africa was reading a Bible story. Did he understand it? (No.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 8:31 from the teacher's Bible. Philip helped the man understand the Bible story. He told the man about Jesus.

What did the man from Africa say to Philip? ("Tell me, please.") Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Tell me, please." Include sign language or hand motions.



Tell about Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: TEACHING BIBLE

Purpose: To remind the children Philip taught the man from Africa the meaning of the Bible story.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy black and white paper, heart stickers, glue or tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Fold the sturdy black paper in half to create a book cover. Cut a cross shape out of the front cover of the book. Fold the white paper in half to create a book page. On the inside left, print: **“Philip Teaches about Jesus” Acts 8:27-31, 34-35**

Directions:

1. Draw a picture of Philip teaching from the Bible on the inside right page of the white paper.
2. Glue or tape the back of the white paper to the inside of the black “Bible cover.”
3. Put the heart sticker on the white cross which is now showing through the “Bible cover.”

Craft Discussion:

- **What was the man from Africa reading?** (The Bible.)
- **Did he understand it?** (No.)
- **What did he ask Philip to do?** (“Tell me, please.”) **That’s our Whisper Verse! Let’s say it with the hand motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **The Holy Spirit helped Philip teach the man from Africa about Jesus. You can tell others about Jesus, too!**
- **Take your “Teaching Bible” home and tell someone the story of Philip teaching the man from Africa about Jesus.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: TELL ME THE STORY

Purpose: Children will act out the story of Philip and the man from Africa.

Supplies: Bible, 2 chairs

The man from Africa was sitting on his chariot, reading a Bible. He needed some help to understand what he was reading. Philip taught him that the story was about Jesus. Let's pretend to be Philip and the man from Africa!

Directions:

1. Place two chairs next to each other in the center of the play area for a chariot.
2. Divide children into two equal groups. Assign one group the part of Philip. Seat them away from the play area. Assign the other group the part of the man from Africa. Seat them near the play area.
3. Choose one man from Africa to sit in the chariot and pretend to read the Bible.
4. Choose one Philip to run to the chariot, point to the Bible, and ask the man from Africa, **"Do you understand?"**
5. The man from Africa says and signs the Whisper Verse, **"Tell me, please."**
6. Philip gets in the chariot, points to the Bible, and says, **"The story is about Jesus."**
7. Continue until each child has a turn as Philip or the man from Africa.

Teacher Tip: For large groups, use four chairs and have two Philips and two men from Africa at the same time.

GAME: JESUS LOVES YOU

Purpose: Children will teach each other how to sign, "Jesus loves you."

Supplies: None

The Bible shows us Jesus loves us. Can you tell each other about Jesus? Let's tell each other how to say and sign, "Jesus loves you."

Directions:

1. Have all the children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to go first. Show the child how to do the following sign language:
Jesus: Tap each middle finger one time in the center of the opposite palm.
Loves: Place hands over heart to show love as if hugging something.
You: Point to the other person.
3. Child turns to the next child in the circle and shows him or her how to say and do signs.
4. Go all the way around the circle and then practice together as a group.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: TELL ME A STORY

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing how they can tell Bible stories to others.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack (or a snack traditionally associated with story time in your area)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who likes stories?** (Children respond.) **Let's eat a favorite snack we might enjoy while listening to a story.**
 - **The man from Africa was reading a Bible story. Did he understand it?** (No.)
 - **What did the man ask Philip to do?** ("Tell me, please.") **That's like our Whisper Verse! Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate Whisper Verse motions: "Tell me, please."
 - **You can tell stories from the Bible, too! Who can you tell?** Children list names of family and friends.
 - **What favorite Bible story would you like to tell others?** Help children remember stories they have learned, such as: Noah and the Ark, David and Goliath, The Birth of Jesus, Feeding the 5,000, Jesus Walks on the Water, Jesus Is Risen, Jesus Goes Up to Heaven, etc.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Teaching Bible" craft. Tell someone Philip taught the man from Africa about Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can tell others stories from the Bible, too.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Philip Teaches about Jesus" Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 8:27-31, 34-35

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Philip was walking down the road one day,** (Walk in place.)
- **A man from Africa he did see.** (Cup hands around eyes like binoculars.)
- **Philip ran to the man as fast as he could,** (Run in place.)
- **For the Bible he was trying to read.** (Fold hands like a book and pretend to read.)

- **Philip asked, "Do you understand this?"** (Palms up as if asking a question.)
- **"Tell me, please!" said the man.** (Whisper Verse Sign Language.)
- **Philip told him all about Jesus** (Point index finger like teaching.)
- **When they read the Bible story again!** (Fold hands like a book and pretend to read.)



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: CLOUD HOP

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper or paper plates

Prepare: Cut 23 cloud shapes from white paper or white paper plates.

After He promised to send the Holy Spirit, Jesus was taken up through the clouds. Let's say each Bible Memory Verse word as we hop from cloud to cloud.

Directions:

1. Lay the clouds on the floor in a line or in a circle around the play area.
2. As you say each word from the Bible Memory Verse, children repeat after you and hop from one cloud to the next.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: GOD'S BLANKET FOR US

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the promise in Joel 2:28a.

Supplies: Large blanket

Directions:

1. In the center of the room, lay the blanket on the floor.
2. Children stand around the edges of the blanket.
3. **God says, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people." The Holy Spirit is God. To pour out His Spirit is a way of saying God is with us in a powerful way. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.**
4. Children pick up the blanket and raise it over their heads as they imagine God pouring His Spirit out on all of them.
5. **Let's wrap God's Spirit around us.**
6. Children duck under the blanket and pull it tight around them.
7. **God wants you to know that He is as close to you as this blanket. That's why He gives you His Spirit—so you can be close with Him!**



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about telling others about Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 1, Lesson 5: Philip and the Ethiopian (the man from Africa)

PONDER! Tell your family the story of Philip and the man from Africa. Then read Acts 8:27-31, 34-35 together. Did the man from Africa understand the Bible story? Philip explained it was about Jesus. What Bible stories can you tell others?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord Jesus, we love to learn stories from the Bible. Please help us tell others about You. Amen."

PLAY! Here is a way to tell others about Jesus. Teach your family and friends how to say and sign, "Jesus loves you." First, tap one middle finger at a time in each palm and say, "Jesus." Then, place your hands over your heart like you are hugging something and say, "loves." Last, point to the person you are teaching and say, "you!" Tell everyone you meet that Jesus loves them, too!

Unit 1 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