

## Lesson 11

### Family Sunday School Helps

May 17, 2020

#### Enduring Faith Unit 3 - Lesson 11 Acts 8:26-40

This week, we will study "A Deacon Delivers" in class. Directed by an angel, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official reading from the Book of Isaiah while riding in his chariot. Realizing the Ethiopian needs help to understand the Scriptures, Philip steps in. After instructing the Ethiopian, Philip baptizes the man and then is carried away by the Spirit to Azotus. Consider discussing, "Who helps us understand Scripture today

**BIBLE TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit works through the Word and Baptism to give faith.

**BIBLE READING:** See below

**BIBLE VERSE:** Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.  
Romans 10:17

**Arch Book** video link

**Sing:** "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (Little Ones Sing Praise, p. 42)

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, help us listen and learn more about You and Your love for us,  
Amen

**Bible Narrative for younger children:** Storytelling Suggestions - Do the action rhyme at the end of the story with younger children.

Philip believed in Jesus. He loved Jesus and liked to tell people about Him. One day, God sent an angel to Philip. The angel told him, "Go and walk along the road that goes through the desert."

Philip did what the angel said. When he came to the desert road, he saw a chariot—a large cart with two wheels that is pulled by horses. Inside the cart, he saw a man

from Ethiopia, a country in Africa. This man was important. He worked for the queen in his country. He took care of her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from a big Bible scroll.

God the Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go over to the chariot." When Philip got closer, he heard the man reading out loud from the Bible. Philip went over and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man from Africa told Philip, "No, I don't understand this story. I need someone to explain it to me." Then he invited Peter to come sit with him in his chariot.

The man from Africa was reading the part in the Bible that says that Jesus would die for us. Philip told the man that the words were talking about God's promise to send a Savior to take away our sins. Then Philip said, "God has already kept His promise! God, our heavenly Father, sent His Son, Jesus, to be born as a baby. Jesus grew up to be a man. He helped many people and taught them about God's love. Then Jesus died on the cross and rose again at Easter to save us from sin and to win the victory over the devil so we can go to heaven someday. Everyone who believes in Jesus and is baptized will be saved."

The Holy Spirit worked faith in the man's heart. Soon, they came to some water. The man said, "Look! Here is some water. I want to be baptized." So Philip and the man got out of the chariot. They went into the water, and Philip baptized the man from Africa. Then the man got back in his chariot and went home to Africa. After that, God made Philip disappear. But the man from Africa was happy as he rode home. He was a child of God now.

God makes us His children through His Word and Baptism too. He helps us share the Good News about Jesus, our Savior.

**Action rhyme to do together:**

**The Bible is God's Word. And every word is true. (Open hands like book.)**

**It tells us of God's love. How He cares for me and you. (Point to self and child.)**

It tells about God's plan. How He sent His only Son. (Point up.)

How Jesus came to save us. How He died and rose for everyone. (Make a finger cross.)

So, let's learn what the Bible says, each and every day. (Open hands like a book.)

Then we can tell about Jesus. We'll know just what to say. (Point to mouth.)

#### BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

An angel of the Lord told Philip the deacon to get up and go south on a road through the desert that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip went right away.

A rich man from Ethiopia was riding in a chariot. The rich man worked for Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all of her treasure. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home. He was reading the Holy Scriptures from a scroll.

Then along came Philip, and the Spirit said, "Go!" So Philip ran to catch up to the chariot. Philip heard the man reading a passage from Isaiah 53 and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man said, "No. I can't understand unless someone helps me. Please help me. Come and sit with me."

The Ethiopian read a passage of Scripture and said, "Tell me, who is the lamb?"

Philip said, "Jesus is the lamb." Then Philip told him more of God's Good News—that Jesus died and rose.

"Now I understand," said the man from Ethiopia.

As they went along, the man saw water. "Look! Here is water! Philip, can you baptize me?" He stopped the chariot, and they both went down to the water.

Philip baptized the man from Ethiopia. What a joyful day!

When they came out of the water, the Spirit carried Philip away.

The man from Ethiopia could not see Philip anymore but rejoiced and went on his way.

Philip found himself at Azotus, and he kept preaching the Gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesa.

The man from Africa was riding home in a chariot. He was reading God's Word and had questions. God sent Philip to help him understand that God's Word was telling about Jesus and how He came to save us.

Who explains God's Word to you? (Pastors, teachers, parents, and so on) You ride to school and church in cars, vans, and other vehicles.

Whom could you tell about Jesus? What would you say?

The Bible tells us (read Romans 10:17): "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." This means that God gives us the Bible so we can learn about Jesus and believe in Him. Let's say these Bible words now. (Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17)

#### **Crafts to help connect Bible learning to life:**

Chariot Craft: Cut two "wheels" out of construction paper, poke holes in the center, and use brass paper fasteners to attach to the sides of a paper cup for a chariot. (The opening on cup should be at top to hold figures.) Add yarn to the front of your chariot for reins. Draw people on two craft sticks. Use stick people and chariot to retell the story.

Water Play: Set out a tub with water and toy dishes. Have children "wash" the dishes. Ask about other things we wash (e.g., cars, hands, clothes) and how water helps us get things clean. Say, In church, Pastor uses water and God's Word to wash away our sin in Baptism. When you are baptized, God makes you His child.

Bible Verse Scroll: Use brown paper bags cut into long strips as scrolls. Write today's Bible Verse on the paper. If the children are good at copying, consider

having them write Romans 10:17 themselves. Glue craft sticks to the narrow edges of the paper and roll up like a scroll.

**Arch Book:** Philip and the Ethiopian

### **Family Discussion:**

**FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER:** Read the entire narrative from Scripture Acts 8:26-40. Then have students look up Isaiah 53:7-8, the passage that Philip and the Ethiopian man studied together. Talk about how awesome it is that the prophet Isaiah prophesied about what would happen to Jesus hundreds of years before Jesus was even born, and how the Holy Spirit helped Philip explain to the Ethiopian that it was all about Jesus. The whole Bible points to Jesus and shows us God's plan of salvation fulfilled in Jesus.

### **TALK ABOUT IT**

(Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your children.)

- What was the man from Africa reading in his chariot?
- Who does Philip tell the man from Africa about?
- What does the man ask Philip to do when he sees the water?
- The Ethiopian needed someone to help him understand the scriptures. Who helps you understand the Bible?

### **KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

(Guide discussion using these key points.)

- The African man was part of the government of Ethiopia. This event was the beginning of the spread of the Gospel throughout Africa.
- Help students see how the baptizing of one person spread the Gospel to so many people. The same is true for us. We can make a difference by telling just one

person about Jesus, and they tell someone, and they tell someone, and the pattern repeats until many people hear the message.

- Hearing God's Word is a wonderful gift that the Lord has given us. It brings us faith and life.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Christ, through the Holy Spirit, has called us by the Word and Baptism to be His own and still speaks to us through His Word. Just like He did with the Ethiopian, God places His name on us in our Baptism. That's a pretty big deal!

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us people to help us understand the Bible and teach us about Your Word. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and Baptism. Help us to share the Gospel like Philip and the Ethiopian. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen

### BIBLE READING:

#### Acts 8:26-40 English Standard Version (ESV)

#### Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

*26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.*

*33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."*

*34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"[b] 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea*

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