

# Philip and the Ethiopian

Early Church and Missions  
Lesson 4

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Philip and the Ethiopian.
- The children will state that God had a plan for the Ethiopian.
- The children will state one way God helps people to find him today.

## Lesson Text

Acts 8:26-40

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"

*Acts 8:30-31*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Figure It Out

Welcome and Singing

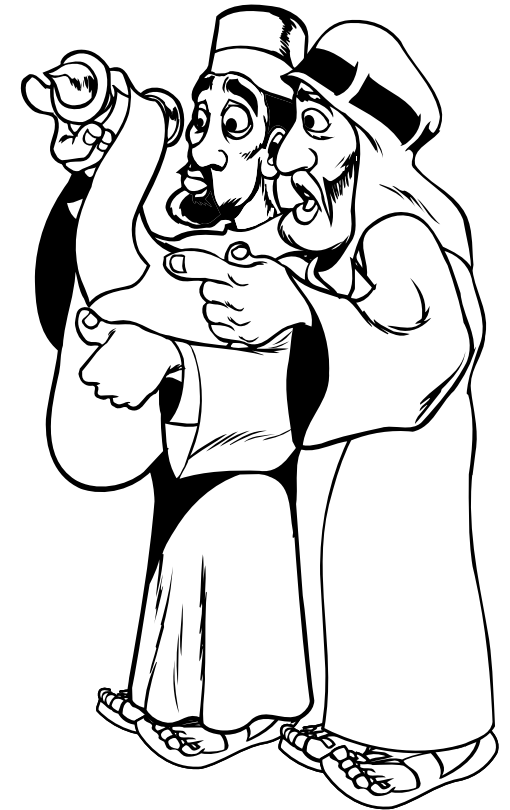
Centers:

Bible Story: 'Jump for Joy' Ride

Craft: Chariot Ride

Scripture Memory: What Are You Reading?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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# Philip and the Ethiopian

## Figure It Out

The children will preview today's lesson by coloring figures of Philip and the Ethiopian.

### Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child (optional—card stock)

### Preparation

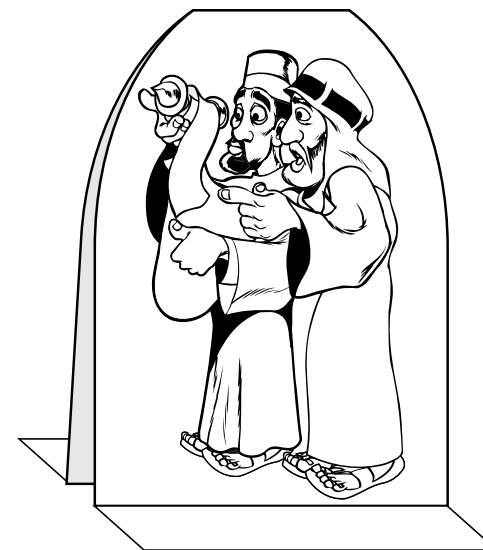
1. Cut out the figures from the copies of Reproducible Page A. Fold the figures in half so the pictures are back-to-back.
2. Make a sample of the completed figure to show the children.

### Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain to them that in today's lesson they will learn about how God used Philip to share God's word with an Ethiopian official. They will be making figures of Philip and the Ethiopian to be used later for their craft. Show the children your sample figure.
2. Distribute the figures and the glue sticks. Have the children fold up the tabs of the figures, and then glue the figures back to back. Be sure that they don't glue the tabs together.
3. Distribute the crayons. Have the children color their figures.
4. When the children are finished coloring, have them write their names on one of the tabs.
5. Give the finished figures to the Craft teacher.

### Teacher Tips

- Glue a few figures together for children who may arrive late.



# B Philip and the Ethiopian

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## 'Jump for Joy' Ride

The children will look at and listen to this week's Bible Story about Philip and the Ethiopian.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 length of yarn, 6'
- 2 pieces of black construction paper, 9" x 12"
- 10 spring-loaded clothespins
- scissors
- glue stick
- crayons or markers

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut the pieces of construction paper in quarters. You should have a total of eight pieces.
2. Color and cut out the pictures from your copies of Reproducible Pages B and C.
3. Glue each picture to a piece of construction paper.
4. Secure the yarn across the story area to make it like a clothesline. Hang it at the children's eye level.

### Introducing the Bible Story

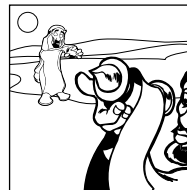
Open your Bible to Acts 8. Tell the children that today's Bible Story is from the New Testament book of Acts. *Today we are going to hear about a very important and special man from Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a country in Africa. Do you know anyone from Africa? Share about someone you know from Africa. People from Ethiopia are called Ethiopians. Can you say that with me?*

*This man was important because he worked for the Queen of Ethiopia. Do you know anyone who works for a king or a queen? the President? a very famous person? Share from your own experience. This man was in charge of the Queen's treasury—which means her money and property. He was a very special person because he wanted to learn about Jesus.*

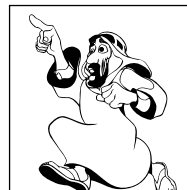
### Presenting the Bible Story



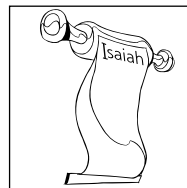
As you begin each part of the story, use a clothespin to hang the appropriate picture on the clothesline for the children to see.



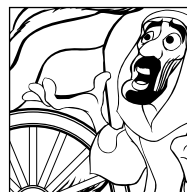
*Philip was a disciple that we learn about in the book of Acts. One day, an angel of the Lord came to talk to Philip. He told Philip to go to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed and started out on the road to Gaza.*



*On his way down the road, Philip saw a man from Ethiopia. This was an important royal official. He was in charge of Queen Candace's money and treasures. He had traveled to Jerusalem to worship. The Ethiopian was riding in his chariot and he was reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. Show the children the book of Isaiah in your Bible.*



*The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up to the chariot and to stay near it. Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading from the book of Isaiah.*



*The Ethiopian was reading a prophecy from the book of Isaiah. A prophecy is a prediction about something that is going to happen in the future. The book of Isaiah, which had been written hundreds of years before Jesus, prophesied all about Jesus. It even described how the Son of God would have to be killed so that people could be forgiven. That is the part of the scripture that the Ethiopian was reading.*



*When Philip heard the Ethiopian reading, he asked: "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I," the Ethiopian said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.*

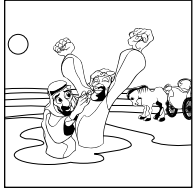
*Philip started explaining the scripture to him. He told him the good news about Jesus. The man listened to Philip and he wanted to be a disciple of Jesus.*



# Philip and the Ethiopian



*As they were traveling and talking, they came to some water. The Ethiopian said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" He ordered his servants to stop the chariot.*



*Then both Philip and the Ethiopian got down into the water and Philip baptized him. He was so happy! Then God took Philip away and Philip continued to preach the good news in many towns—and the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing.*

## Hang It Up-Review

Remove the pictures from the line and mix them up. Distribute them so that every child or pair of children has one. Tell them that you will tell the story again, and the child with the correct picture will come up and hang it on the line. Repeat this review if time permits.

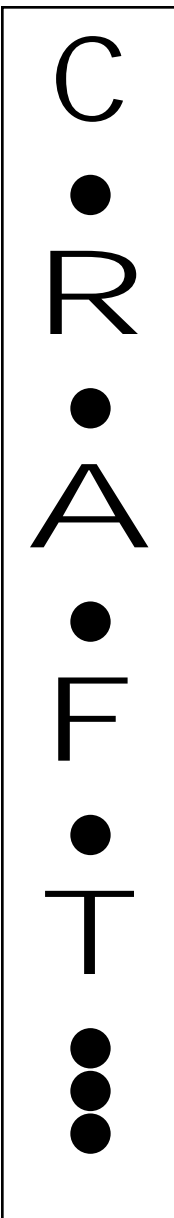
## Share and Tell

*God made sure that the Ethiopian had a chance to hear the good news about Jesus. He planned to use Philip at just the right time so that the Ethiopian could hear about Jesus and be saved. God has a plan for all people to hear about Jesus because he loves everyone. Ask the children if they can think of someone to tell about Jesus. Close with a prayer thanking God for his plan to help the Ethiopian know Jesus.*

## Teacher Tips

- Think of additional creative ways to enhance the presentation of this story.

# Philip and the Ethiopian



# Philip and the Ethiopian

## Chariot Ride

The children will build chariots reminding them of Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian.

### Materials

For each child:

- figure from the Preclass Activity
- crayons
- tape
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors
- crayons
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher (optional—card stock)
- Page D, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. Prepare your figure, see Figure A, as follows:
  - A. Cut out the figure from your copy of Reproducible Page A.
  - B. Fold the figure in half so the pictures are back-to-back.
  - C. Fold up the tabs, and then glue the figure back-to-back. Be sure not to glue the tabs together.
  - D. Color the figure with crayons.
2. Prepare a chariot for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut out the chariots from the copies of Reproducible Page D.
  - B. Cut the four slits as indicated in Figure B.
  - C. Turn the chariot over and then fold up the front, the sides, and the back along the dashed lines to make creases.

NOTE: This pre-folding is to help the children easily fold and tape the chariots together later during their Craft center.
3. Make a sample of the finished craft to show the children.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's craft: *In our Bible Story this week we are learning about Philip and the Ethiopian. God had a plan for the Ethiopian to become a Christian so he sent Philip to find him. Philip found the Ethiopian riding in a chariot. Do you know what*

*a chariot is? It looks like this. Show the children your sample. Today you are going to build a chariot to help remind you of how God used Philip to tell the Ethiopian the good news about Jesus.*

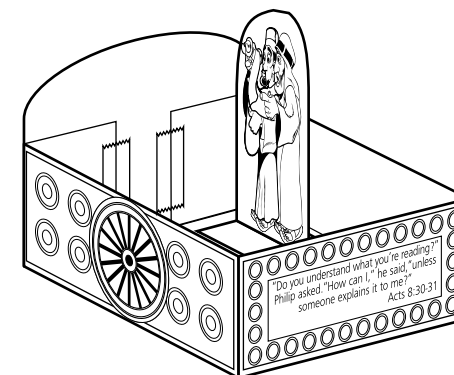
2. Distribute the chariots and the crayons to the children. Have them color the chariots, explaining to them that only the front, the sides and the back will be visible when the chariot is finished.
3. Distribute the tape to the children. Help them to fold and tape the corners of their chariots together, one corner at a time.
4. Distribute the glue sticks and the figures they prepared during the Preclass Activity. Have them glue the tabs of the figures inside the their chariots. See Figure C.

### Conclusion

Close with a prayer thanking God for how he makes plans for us to hear about Jesus.

### Teacher Tips

- Some children may need more help than others when putting their chariots together. Be prepared to circulate among the children offering help as needed.



# Philip and the Ethiopian

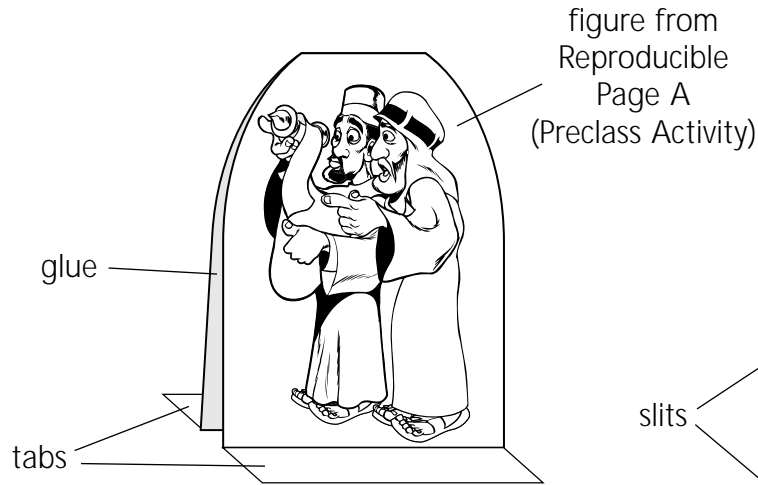


Figure A

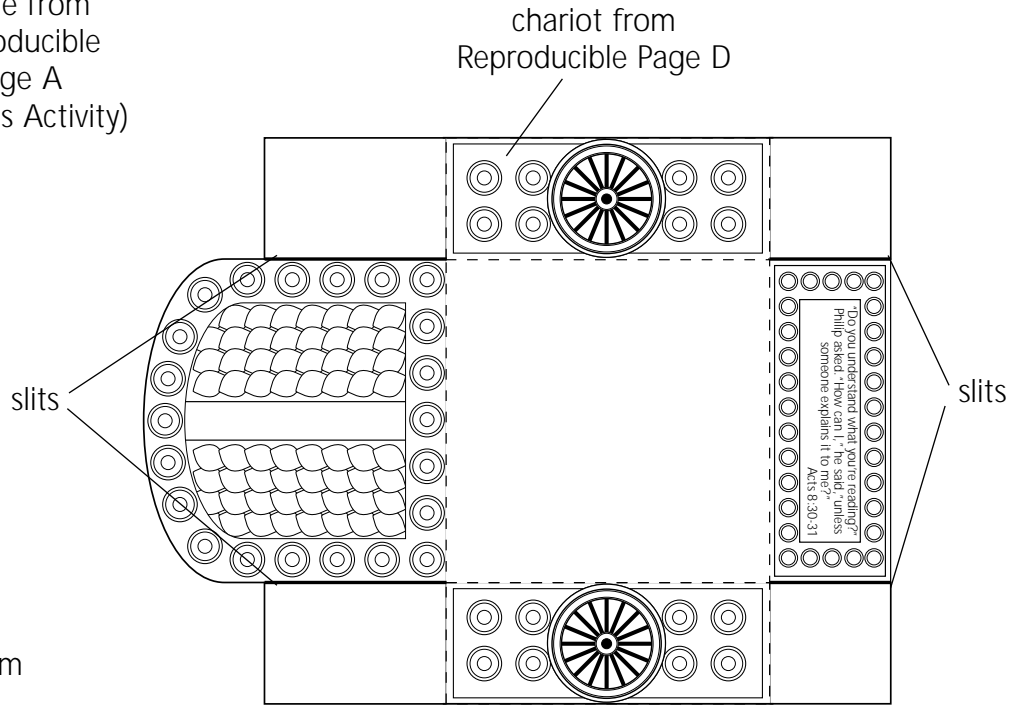


Figure B

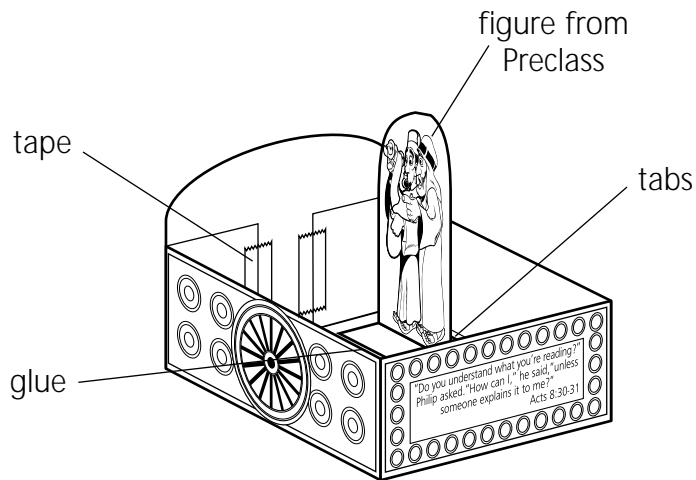


Figure C

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# Philip and the Ethiopian

## What Are You Reading?

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this role-play activity.

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"

*Acts 8:30-31*

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 2 chairs

### Preparation

Practice leading this activity.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's Bible Story, we are learning how God used Philip to meet the Ethiopian official and share God's word with him. Philip helped the Ethiopian to understand the passage of scripture he was reading. The Ethiopian then understood the good news about Jesus—and he got baptized right away! Today our Scripture Memory Verse comes from the conversation between Philip and the Ethiopian.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times, pointing to the words as they listen. Ask them to say it together with you three more times.
3. Divide the children into two groups. Line up the groups so that they are facing each other. Tell the children that they will take turns saying the verse in two parts.
  - Have one group say the first half of the verse:  
"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.
  - Have the other group reply with the second half of the verse:  
"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"
  - Have both groups say the reference together: Acts 8:30-31.
4. Repeat this activity and then switch so that both groups say both parts of the verse at least five times.

### Chariot Ride

Have the children sit in a semi-circle. Place two chairs in front of them and tell them that they will act out this verse as Philip and the Ethiopian. Choose one child to play the Ethiopian and sit in the chariot reading Isaiah. Choose a child to play Philip. Have Philip walk up to the chariot and say the first part of the scripture, as before. Have the other child reply with the second part of the scripture. Have all the other children say the reference together. Continue until all the children have had a chance to play at least one of these roles.

### Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God cared so much for this man from Ethiopia that he sent Philip directly to him. Explain to the children that there are many people in the world who haven't been taught all of the good news of Jesus. God has a plan to use others like Philip and us to help people know how to be saved. Close with a prayer thanking God for how he uses people to help teach others about Jesus.

### Teacher Tips

- Think of additional ways to enhance the "chariot" for this activity.



# Philip and the Ethiopian

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“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?”

Acts 8:30-31





# Philip and the Ethiopian

Early Church and Missions  
Lesson 4

Lesson at  
a Glance supplement

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Philip and the Ethiopian.
- The children will state that God had a plan for the Ethiopian.
- The children will state one way God helps people to find him today.

## Lesson Text

Acts 8:26-40

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.  
"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"  
*Acts 8:30-31*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: A Perfect Plan

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Still Perfect (After All These Years)

Game: Pick up Sticks

Bible Skills: Quick Draw Review

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

1st and 2nd Grades



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## A Perfect Plan

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they put pictures in order.

### Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- 1 small envelope
- glue stick
- crayons

For the teacher:

- scissors
- stapler

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. For each child, cut the construction paper into two 4½" x 12" strips. Staple them together to make a 4½" x 24" strip.

2. Cut out the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page E and place in the envelopes for each child.

### Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about how God sent Philip to the Ethiopian to teach him the good news about Jesus. Explain that they will put the pictures from this week's Bible Story in order.
2. Distribute the construction paper strips and envelopes you prepared, crayons and glue sticks. Tell the children to color their pictures and place them in the correct order onto their strips. Make sure they placed them correctly and then have them glue the pictures in place.
3. As the children finish, help them to fold their strips in half, making a long thin

book as shown below. Help the children to write "A Perfect Plan" on the cover.

### Teacher Tips

- Review the Bible Story as you help the children place their pictures in order.



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N**Still Perfect (After All These Years)**

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they hear stories of how God's plan still works today.

**Materials**

*For the teacher:*

- scissors

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page F, 3 copies for the teacher

**Preparation**

1. Cut out the questions from one of your copies of Reproducible Page F. Give the other copies to your guest speakers.
2. Read Acts 8:26-40 to review the events from this week's Bible Story.

**Special Advanced Preparation**

Make arrangements to have two disciples come and share with your class about how God worked in their lives so that they could become Christians. Prepare them with a copy of Reproducible Page F. Budget your time so that both guests have a chance to answer questions and share their stories.

NOTE: If you have centers, make sure the guests understand that they will be presenting their stories several times to several different groups of children.

**Reviewing the Bible Story**

Open your Bible to Acts 8. *This week you learned about Philip and the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian was an important official who worked for the Queen of Ethiopia. He had traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship God. On his way home, the Ethiopian was reading from the book of Isaiah. God sent Philip up to the Ethiopian's chariot. When Philip saw him reading Isaiah he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" He invited Philip into the chariot and Philip taught him the good news about Jesus. As soon as the Ethiopian understood, he found some water and stopped the chariot so that Philip could baptize him.* Ask the children to say this week's Scripture Memory Verse. ("Do you understand what you are

reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" Acts 8:30-31)

Tell the children that God had a plan for the Ethiopian Eunuch to learn about Jesus and be saved two thousand years ago, and he has plans for people to learn about Jesus and be saved today. Explain that in class today, they will hear from two disciples who will tell about how God's plan worked in their lives so that they could hear about Jesus and be saved.

**Life Application**

Introduce your guests to the children. Distribute the questions to the children so that each child (or pair of children) has one. Explain that the children will come up in the order of the numbers on their questions. You will help them read and ask the questions to the guests. After the first guest has shared, collect and mix up the questions. Distribute them again and repeat with the second guest. Have the children express their thanks to both guests.

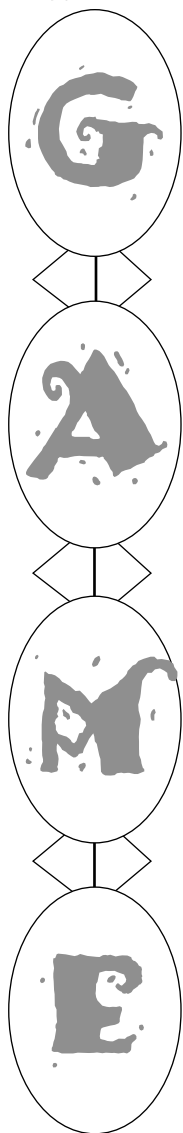
**Conclusion**

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God is still working in people's lives today just as he did in the early church. Ask them each to say one way that God moved in the lives of one of the guests. Close with a prayer thanking God for his perfect plan to let all people know about him.

**Teacher Tips**

- Talk with your guests during the week to make sure they are prepared and confident.
- Adapt this activity to the needs of your class. If necessary, invite only one guest to give the children more time to ask and discuss questions.





## Pick up Sticks

The children will review key words and ideas from this week's Bible Story as they pick up sticks.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 25 small craft sticks
- fine-tip permanent marker
- score pad
- paper

### Preparation

1. Neatly print the following words, each one on five craft sticks: Philip, Ethiopian, Holy Spirit, Isaiah, Water. (You should have twenty-five craft sticks, each with one word on it.)
2. Read Acts 8:26-40 to review the events of this week's Lesson.
3. Practice leading this activity.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you learned about Philip and the Ethiopian. You learned that the Ethiopian had traveled a long way to Jerusalem to worship God. On the way back to Ethiopia, an angel of the Lord sent the disciple Philip to meet the Ethiopian's chariot. When Philip saw the man reading Isaiah, Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said that he needed someone to explain it to him. So Philip came into the chariot and taught him the good news about Jesus. When they came to some water, the Ethiopian asked Philip to baptize him. Afterward, the Holy Spirit took Philip away and the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing.* Explain that in today's game, they will review the different people and events from this story as they play pick up sticks.
2. Show the children the craft sticks you prepared. Read and show one of each of the five different words or phrases to the children. Mix up the sticks and hold them together in one hand. With the sticks in an upright position on a flat surface, let them fall down. Tell the children that they will take turns trying to pick up one stick at a time without disturbing any of the others. If another stick moves or is disturbed, the child loses that turn.

When a child has successfully removed one stick, he may say one thing about the word or phrase written on it that relates to this week's lesson. If the child is correct, he receives points for his answer. See the Answer and Point Chart on the back of this Lesson Card. Since there are multiple sticks with the same word(s), answers will be repeated.

3. Divide the children into two teams. Be careful to balance the children who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did. Choose the team to go first. Explain that each team will take turns trying to remove one stick at a time. Players do not go again if they succeed in removing a stick. Players will automatically receive one point for each stick removed successfully. Additional points are given when the children can explain how the words on the stick relate to this week's lesson. Encourage the children to help each other with their answers.  
NOTE: Give points for answers that show the child's general understanding of the word's significance. Minor mistakes should be corrected but not penalized. For example, if a child picks up a stick with the word "Philip" and says: "God sent the angel Philip to the chariot." Explain that it was an angel who sent the disciple Philip to the chariot, but give points for understanding. Do not award points for nonsensical or irrelevant answers.
4. When all the sticks have been removed, total the points. Encourage both teams for their participation.

### Conclusion

Ask the children what their favorite part of this story is and why. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the ways that he is helping people around the world to know about Jesus.

### Teacher Tips

- If the children in your class did not hear this week's Bible Story, use this game as a chance to teach the children one new thing from Acts 8:26-40, using the words on the sticks.



# Philip and the Ethiopian



## Pick up Sticks

Answer and Point Chart

**Philip** 2 points

**Ethiopian Eunuch** 2 points

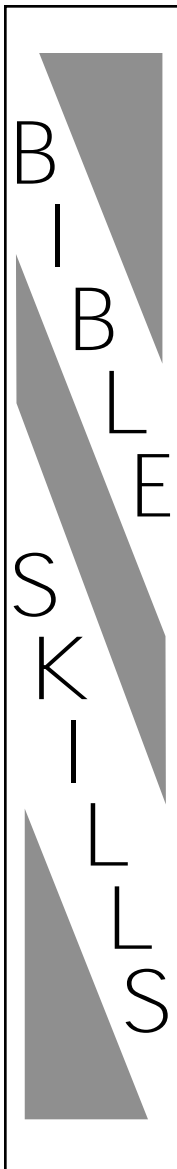
**Holy Spirit** 3 points

**Isaiah** 5 points

**Water** 3 points



# Philip and the Ethiopian



## Quick Draw Review

The children will practice looking up passages in the book of Acts.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 9 index cards, 3" x 5"

### Preparation

1. On the index cards, neatly print the references on the back of this Lesson Card.
2. Practice leading this activity.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week in your Bible Story, you learned about Philip and the Ethiopian. Over the past several weeks, you have been learning about the early church and how it grew very large very fast. You have been reading from the New Testament book of Acts that tells us all about the first church. In your activity today, you will see how quickly you can find some of the verses from these lessons.*
2. Show the children the index cards you prepared. Explain that on each card is a verse or chapter from the Bible Stories about the early church. Show and say each reference to the children. Mix up the cards.
3. Divide the children into two pairs. Make sure that each pair has a Bible. Help the children to open their Bibles to the books of Acts. Tell them that all the references will be in the book of Acts. Tell the children that you will call out a reference and they will try to be the first one to find it. Once they have found the verse, they should put their finger on it in their Bible and raise their other hand. Once all the children have found it, read it aloud to the children as they follow along, unless it is a chapter reference.
4. Call out the first reference. Circulate among the children to offer help. When all the children have located the verse, read it aloud with them.
5. Do this for each reference. Encourage the children for their participation.

### Activity Variations

Adjust this activity to the ability level of your group. If you have children who are very confident, then have them begin each new round with their Bibles closed. For an even more challenging version, have the children compete for time. Avoid activities that will leave the children feeling discouraged or insecure.

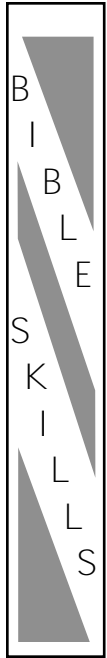
### Conclusion

Ask the children what their favorite story has been from these lessons about the early church. Encourage the children to ask their parents to read stories from the book of Acts with them at home. Close with a prayer thanking God for the book of Acts.

### Teacher Tips

- Always pair children who are helpful and confident with new or visiting children and those who are less confident.





# Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 2

Acts 4:32

Acts 2:38

Acts 8

Acts 2:42

Acts 8:26

Acts 4

Acts 8:30-31

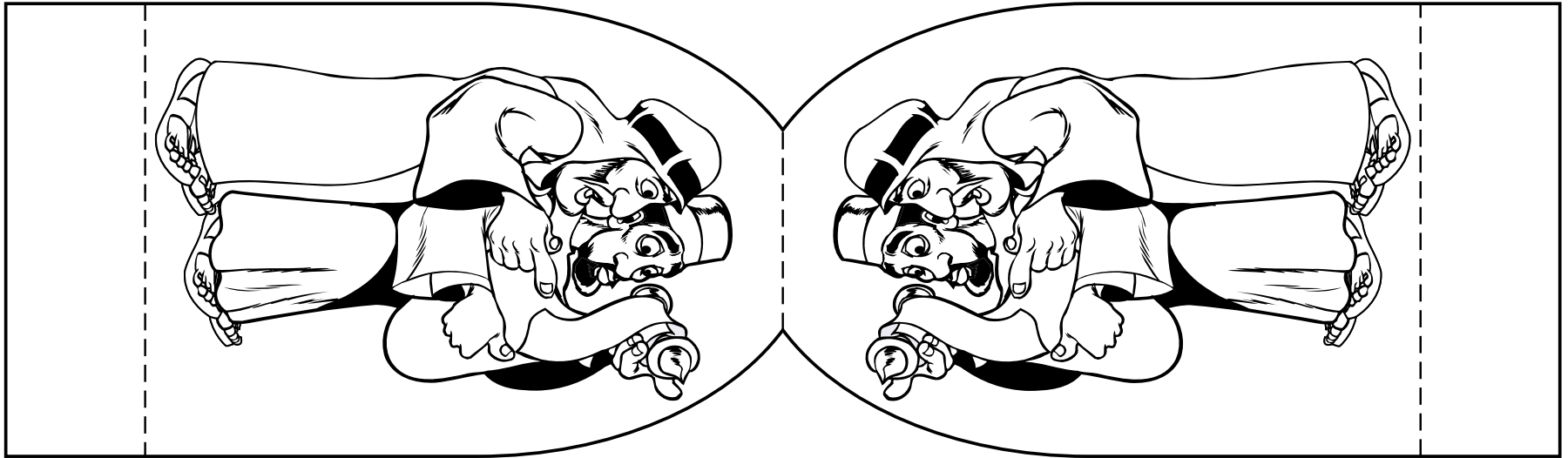
Acts 4:31



Core/Preclass 1 copy for each child (optional—card stock)  
Core/Craft 1 copy for the teacher (optional—card stock)

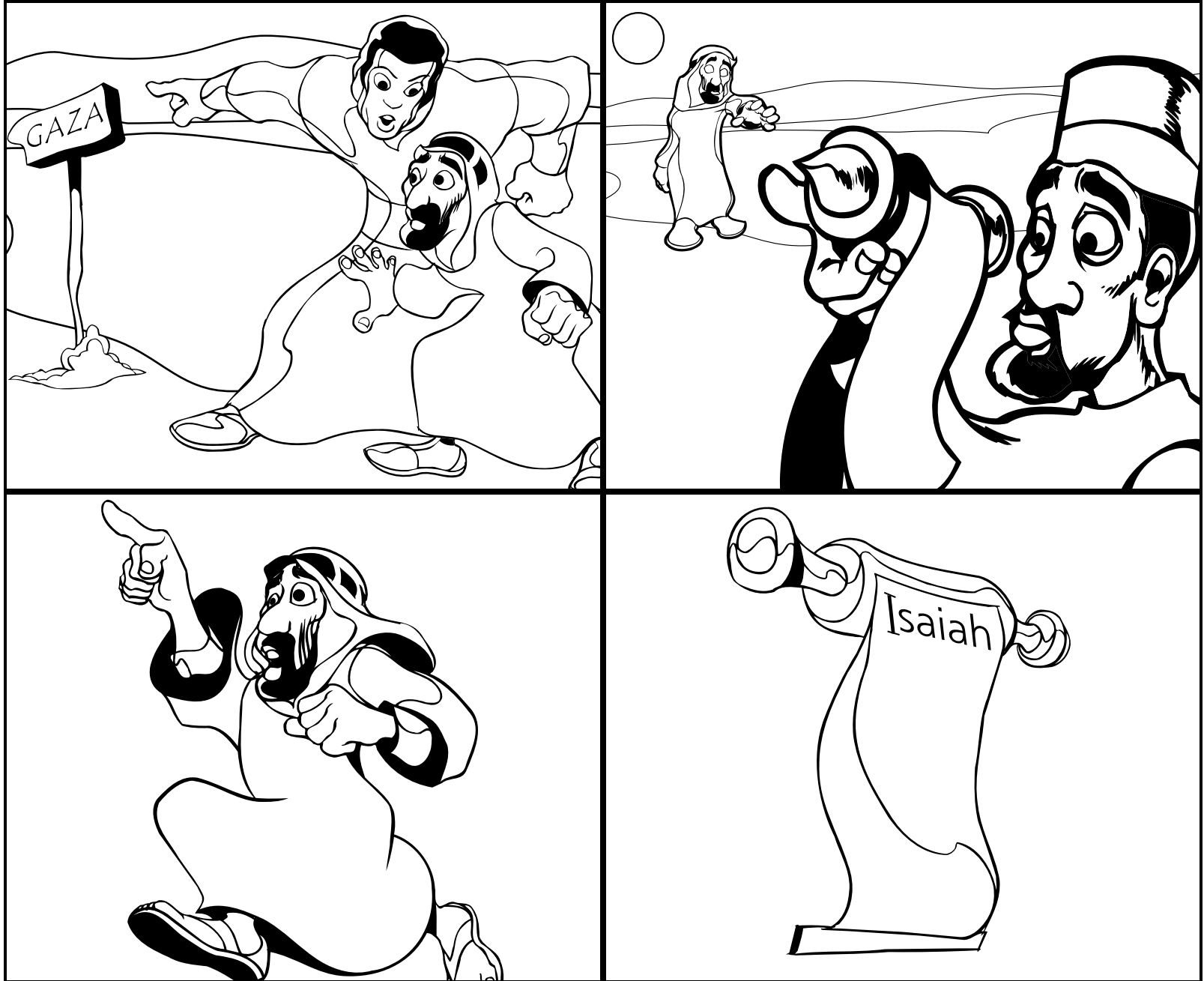
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Core/Bible Story  
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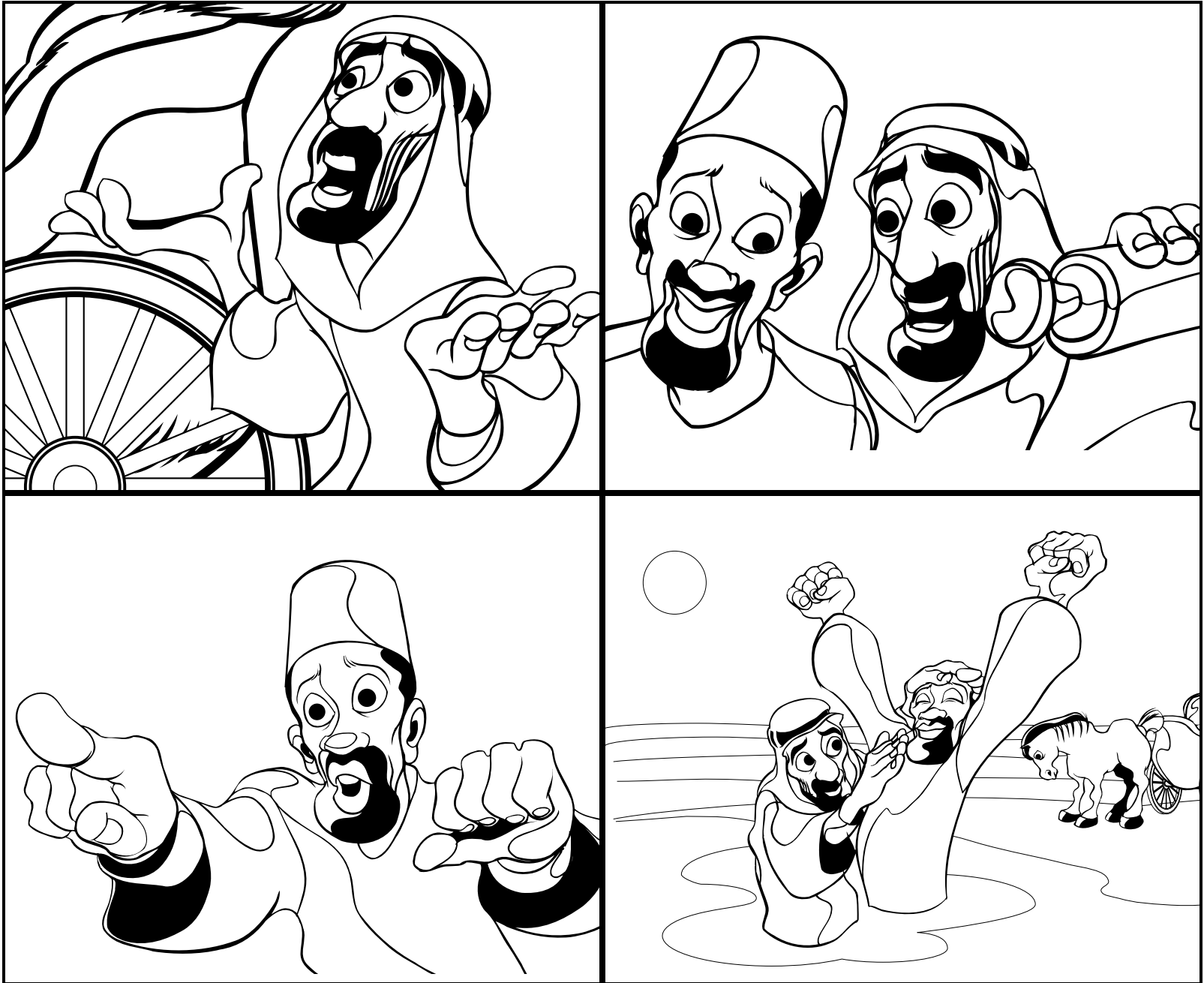
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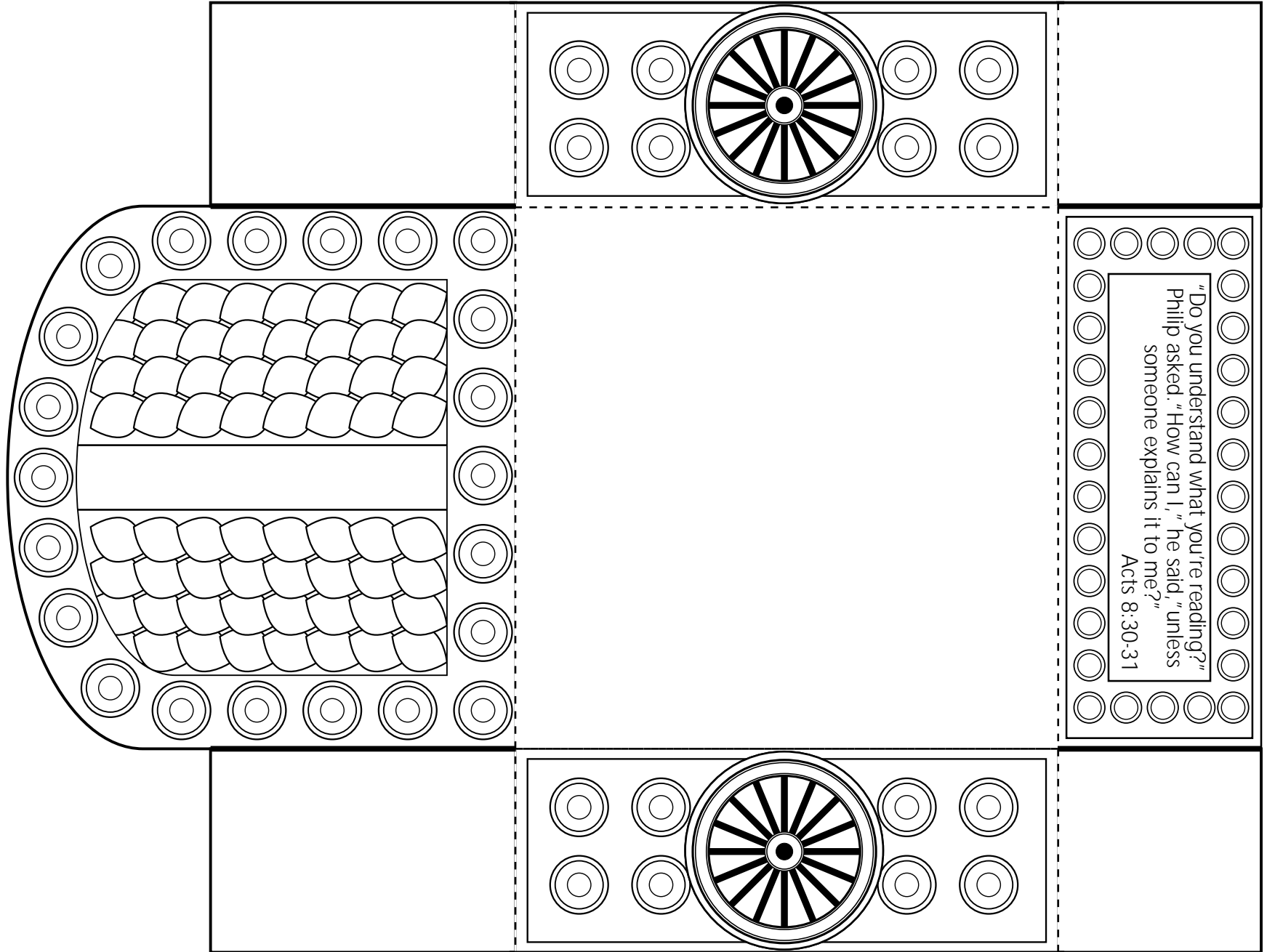




Core/Bible Story  
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"Do you understand what you're reading?"  
Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless  
someone explains it to me?"  
Acts 8:30-31



Supplement/Preclass  
1 copy for each child

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## Supplement/Life Application

3 copies for the teacher

### Special Note to the Guests

This week's Bible Story comes from Acts 8. The children in this class learned about how God sent Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch to help him hear the good news about Jesus and be saved. The children have learned that God had a plan to give the Ethiopian a chance to learn about Jesus—and he had a plan to use Philip to do it! With your help, the children will learn that God still has plans to give everyone a chance to hear about Jesus and be saved today!

Please review the following questions that the children will be asking you during the Life Application activity. Prepare brief but complete answers in a way that children this age can understand. Please do not share specific details of previous sinful activities that could confuse or scare these children. Emphasize the ways that you saw your need for God and the ways that God put people in your life at just the right time to meet your needs and lead you to Jesus. Try to compare your conversion experience to the events in Acts 8:26-40 to help the children better understand and appreciate God's perfect plan at work today!

*Thanks for your help!*

1. How did you first begin looking for God? What did you do? Where did you go?
2. What is the name of the disciple that God sent to teach you about Jesus?
3. Where were you when God sent this disciple to you?
4. How long was it before you were ready to be baptized?
5. How did you feel after you were baptized and had your sins forgiven?
6. Who was the first person you told about Jesus after you were baptized?

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