

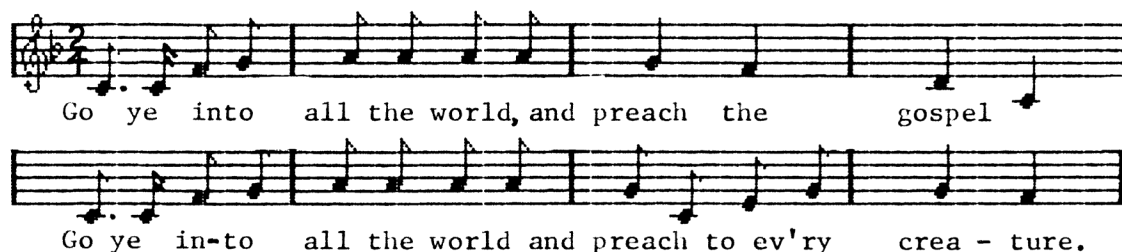
Philip and the Eunuch

TEXT Acts 8:26-40

OBJECTIVE The students will know that Philip used God's power to witness. They will be able to explain how the Holy Spirit works through us to tell others about Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. — Mark 16:15

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

GO YE — Point to a group of people.

INTO ALL THE WORLD — Hold arms in circle over head.

AND PREACH — Point to mouth.

THE GOSPEL — Hold hands in front of you, to look like a book.

TO EVERY CREATURE — Point to everyone in the room.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Cut out the three parts of this verse display: the arrow, world, and Bible. (See pattern at end of lesson.) Arrange the sections on your board as indicated by the thumbnail sketch, as the students learn the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Bring a globe to class, and several pictures of dolls representing children of other nationalities, as well as one representative of a child of our culture. Explain that Jesus wants us to tell others about Him, both at home or wherever He wants us to go.

1. Philip had been preaching in the city of Samaria, and many people had been saved. Then an angel told Philip to go to a certain desert.

2. Philip obeyed, and the Spirit told him to join a man who was riding in a chariot. This man was an Ethiopian, and he was reading the Book of Isaiah, while traveling along.

3. When Philip saw what the Ethiopian was reading, he asked him if he understood it.

4. The man said he needed someone to teach him, and he invited Philip to come up into the chariot. Philip explained the Scriptures to him, and told him about Jesus.

Climax: The Ethiopian believed on Jesus and was baptized in water.

Conclusion: Jesus cared so much about the Ethiopian that he sent Philip a long way to teach him about being saved. He wants us to care about people's salvation, too, and to always be willing to tell people about Jesus. Response: Your students will be able to explain that the Holy Spirit guided Philip and worked through him to help the Ethiopian learn about Jesus. They will be able to tell how God can work through us in the same way.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Philip, not to be confused with the Apostle Philip (Matthew 10:3), was one of the seven deacons chosen by the Apostles to serve tables (Acts 6:1-5). We have the accounts of two of these deacons, Stephen and Philip, whom God used in a much greater capacity than their original calling. God used Philip to preach the Word in Samaria (Acts 8:4-8), lead the Ethiopian to Christ (Acts 8:26-39), preach in various cities until he reached Cæsarea (Acts 8:40), influence his four daughters for Christ (Acts 21:9), and give hospitality to Paul (Acts 21:8).

The Ethiopian, interested in knowing the true God, had

been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but being a eunuch, he was barred from becoming a member of the congregation of Israel (Deuteronomy 23:1). The Lord, however, was breaking down the barriers that had once hindered people from entering the household of faith (Ephesians 2:14,15).

Scripture does not say what became of the Ethiopian but tradition tells us he became a missionary to his people. Perhaps as a result of Philip's letting the Holy Spirit lead him and because of his knowledge of the Word, the Gospel began reaching into Africa.

Teachers should be prepared to answer the question: "What is a eunuch?" According to Zondervan's Bible Dictionary, the term came to mean "an officer" or "custodian."

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Use the principle of siphoning to show the effect of God's power working through people. Bring to class a bowl of water, short rubber tube or flexible straw, and two glasses half full of water. Hold each end of the tube and place both ends underwater in the bowl of water. The tube will fill with water. Pinch ends to hold water. Then put ends underwater in the separate glasses. Release ends of tube. Gently, holding the tube, lift one glass higher than the other. The water will flow from the higher into the lower glass. Explain that we are like the tube, maybe label it with children's names on it. God's power flows through us and out to others as we witness and tell about Jesus, Sunday school, and His love for them. God is in Heaven, therefore, He is higher than we are here on earth and His power flows down to us, and through us.

Start a paper chain with a strip of paper. Tell a child, "Jesus loves you." Let that child add a paper strip to yours. Then that child tells about Jesus to the next child, etc. Each time another link is added to the paper chain. When the children come back the following Sunday they can add to the paper chain if they had told someone about Jesus.

Using 13 flash cards, write a different word of the memory verse on each card. Pass them out to the class and have the students arrange them in the correct order. For variety, cut the flash cards in the shape of footprints, shoes, or small children.

To illustrate the work of the Holy Spirit, use a pair of glasses. Tell your group, "I need my glasses to see clearly." The Holy Spirit will help us to understand what to say and how to tell others about Jesus.

Give each child a piece of paper with several simple figures drawn on it. Talk to them about the children they

see each day — the one they sit next to in school, see on the school bus, eat lunch with, etc. Help them write the names of these people beside each of the figures. On the top of the paper, help them copy the words, "I Want To Be a Witness to. . . ."

QUESTIONS

Who sent Philip to the desert of Gaza? For what reason was he sent?

What nationality was Philip? The man he met? How do we know that Jesus loves everybody — people of all nationalities?

What was the Ethiopian man doing as he rode along? In what way might this be a good example for us?

What did Philip ask the man, and what was the man's reply?

How do we know that the man listened eagerly to the preaching of Philip and believed what was taught him?

What was it in Philip's life that made him an effective witness and preacher of the Word?

Do you think the Holy Spirit helped Philip to preach to the eunuch?

Is this why the Holy Spirit is important for us to receive?

Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same as the eunuch's baptism? Explain.

What does *rejoicing* mean — happy, sad, joyful, glad, exult, sing, pray, mournful, depressed, dejected?

What made it easy for Philip to talk to a stranger about God?

Why couldn't the man understand what he was reading?

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Use stick puppets (see Patterns) of a boy and girl to dramatize ways children can invite their friends to Sunday school or tell them about Jesus. A shoe box with one side removed and set up on the edge of your table will make a good stage.

Cut out an assortment of children's pictures from magazines. Make a collage of these pictures in class. As you paste each figure into the collage, make up a little imaginary story about the figure, giving it a name and stressing that this child needs to know about Jesus. In the center, write the words, "I'll Tell Them About Jesus!"

