



UNIT 31 | SESSION 4

THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

ACTS 8

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the Ethiopian official understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, just like the Old Testament prophets said.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS and OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

The story of the Ethiopian official's baptism began with an angel giving a command to Philip, an apostle of Jesus Christ. Philip's on-the-spot obedience led him to clarify the Scriptures and point the Ethiopian official to Christ. As a result of Philip's desire to live on mission, the Lord provided an opportunity for the gospel to spread further throughout the world.

In what ways did the context of Acts 8 seem inopportune for spreading God's Word? How did Philip's willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit play a part in this story of practical evangelism?

In the beginning of today's reading, we see the rippling effects of Stephen's stoning (Acts 7). Severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all but the apostles scattered while Saul ravaged the church. However, as these believers dispersed, they continued living on mission, preaching the Word of God boldly rather than cowering to their circumstances.

Making his way down the road God chose for him, Philip came across this traveling eunuch who needed someone to explain the meaning of Isaiah 53. Just as we read in Romans 10 that we cannot believe God's truth without hearing or having it preached, the Ethiopian official declared that he needed a

guide. While Philip did not know everything about the mysteries of God, he trusted that the Holy Spirit guided him down that desert road with divine purpose.

As you teach on the Lord's faithfulness amidst His people's trials, emphasize the simplicity of this story: a follower of Jesus stepped confidently into a situation where the Lord had gone before him. How can you show your kids that He will do just the same for them today as they share the gospel with others—just as you are relaying His truths to them in this story?

Teach kids that all who hear the good news of Jesus Christ and believe in Him are welcomed into God's kingdom. Like Philip, may we trust and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit for the sake of making the gospel known to others.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Ethiopian eunuch: an unnamed person who was returning to his homeland after having been to Jerusalem to worship. His conversion illustrates the Christian faith transcending national boundaries.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Desert Journey Maze” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ painter’s tape



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “The Church Spread Out” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ world map (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 31, Session 4” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Jones Family Photo” printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase boards, 2



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ “Flags of Europe” printable, 1 per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY 🗨️ What is something you didn't understand at first? Has someone ever helped you read a word or learn a new skill? How did you feel when you received help? 🗨️

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "Desert Journey Maze" on the activity page.

SAY 🗨️ In today's story, we will learn that Philip obeyed God and listened to the Holy Spirit. Because Philip obeyed, he was able to share good news with someone. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PASS THE MESSAGE



Form kids into groups of four or five kids and direct them to line up shoulder to shoulder. Whisper a "secret message" to the first kid in each group such as "I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen." Challenge kids to pass the message by whispering it in the next kid's ear. Direct kids to continue through the line until it gets to the last kid. Once the message reaches the last kid in each group, direct them to say the message aloud and see if it is correct. Repeat as time allows.

SAY 🗨️ Sometimes we don't always understand what we hear. It can be confusing if something is unclear. Today, we will learn about a man who was reading God's Word, but he didn't understand what he was reading. Let's learn how God sent Philip to help the man understand the good news. 🗨️

☐ OPTION 2: LISTEN AND FOLLOW

Before the session, use painter's tape to create a "ladder" on the floor. Create enough "steps" of the ladder for each kid. For larger groups, consider making two or more ladders.

Invite kids to stand on a step of the "ladder." Tell kids that they must listen closely and follow your instructions. Provide directions for kids to follow such as "Hop to the right of the ladder" "Step down the ladder" "Step up the ladder" etc. Repeat as time allows and consider inviting a kid to give the directions.

SAY 🗨️ This game required you to listen closely and follow the directions that were given. Today, we will learn how a man named Philip, one of the apostles, listened to God and followed His directions. Let's learn who God led Philip to help. 🗨️

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

* Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY 🗨️ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name]. Today, we will be reading in the book of Acts again. If you have your Bible with you, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let's turn to Acts 8 as we get ready to hear our Bible story.

As we hear our story, we will learn how the Holy Spirit led Philip, an apostle, to a man from Ethiopia. The man from Ethiopia needed help understanding God's Word. We'll see how Philip listened and followed God's leading to help the man hear the good news of Jesus. 🗨️

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

* *Worship* * *Same God* * *offering*
* *By His wounds*
SAY 🗨️ Just like our Bible story today will teach us how Philip helped the Ethiopian man understand the good news, our big picture question and answer reminds us of this good news too. What is our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Why did Jesus become human? What is the answer? [Allow responses.] Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

God always had a plan to save sinners by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins. Today, our Bible story shows us how a book from the Old Testament called Isaiah pointed to Jesus' sacrifice. 🗨️

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY 🗨️ The apostles and other believers were obedient to God's command to go and share the good news with the world. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles power and helped them boldly share the gospel. Even when Peter and John were arrested for sharing the gospel and told to be quiet, God gave them courage to keep sharing the good news.

Last week, we learned that a disciple named Stephen suffered and died for loving Jesus and sharing the good news. But this did not stop believers from continuing to share the gospel. Today, we will learn how the Holy Spirit led Philip to share the good news with a man from Ethiopia. 🗨️



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Church Spread Out.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

“An angel of the Lord told Philip, a follower of Jesus, to go to a desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza. So Philip went.

On the road was a man from Ethiopia. He was an important official to the queen of Ethiopia. **The man had come to worship in Jerusalem,** and now he was on his way home. **He sat in his chariot, reading aloud the words of the prophet Isaiah.**

The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the chariot, so Philip ran up to it. **“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked the man.**

The official replied, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” He invited Philip into his chariot, and Philip sat with him. **The official was reading these words from Isaiah: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so He does not open His mouth. He was treated unfairly, and His life is taken away.”**

The official asked, “Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?” **Isaiah was talking about the Messiah, so Philip began to tell the man the good news about Jesus,** beginning with the words they had just read together.

As they traveled down the road, they came to some water. “What would keep me from being baptized?” the official asked.

Then the official told the chariot to stop. He and Philip went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit took Philip away to another town, where he continued to travel and preach the gospel. The official went home, and he was very happy.

Christ Connection: The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the Ethiopian official understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, just like the Old Testament prophets said. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use a map: Point to Ethiopia on a world map when you share how the man was from Ethiopia.

Define baptize: Remind kids that to baptize someone means to lower a person in the water and bring him back up. Tell kids that it is a command Jesus gave His followers and is a way for believers to publicly show they have confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗨️ Philip had followed Jesus and was one of His disciples. After Jesus went back to heaven, Philip joined the other disciples and was sent out to share the good news. One day, God sent Philip to a desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza. Philip obeyed and went to the road. Who told Philip to go to the chariot? **[Allow responses.]** The Holy Spirit led Philip to the Ethiopian's chariot. Philip heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah.

The Ethiopian man needed help understanding what he was reading. What did the man ask Philip? **[Allow responses.]** The Ethiopian official asked Philip who Isaiah was writing about in the Scripture he was reading. Philip told the man that it was about Jesus, and he shared the good news. The verses in Isaiah were written long before Jesus came to earth, but they were about Jesus coming to die on the cross for our sin. **Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.**

After Philip shared the gospel and helped the Ethiopian man understand God's Word, the Ethiopian man wanted to follow Jesus. Philip followed the command God has for all believers to go and share the good news with the world. How did the Ethiopian man show he trusted in Jesus? **[Allow responses.]** The Ethiopian man wanted to be baptized. Philip was faithful to make a disciple, baptize him, and teach him God's Word.

We are called to go and share the gospel. As we go, God will lead us to people who need to hear the good news so they can believe in Jesus and be saved from their sins. 🗨️

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 🗨️ The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the Ethiopian official understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, just like the Old Testament prophets said. 🗨️

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)



Show the "Unit 31, Session 4" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What are the most important stories in the Bible to read?
2. How can you help others hear and understand the stories in the Bible?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the "Jones Family Photo" as you tell the kids about the missionary family in Germany.

SAY 🗨️ Amy Jones learned that God wanted Christians to tell people from every nation, tribe, people group, and language about Jesus when she was a preschooler. Long before Amy became a missionary in Germany, she began praying for people in Europe after her mother returned from a trip to England. Amy learned that very few Europeans believed in Jesus, so she prayed they would trust in Him. 🗨️



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Tell kids that Casey and Amy Jones have worked with other missionaries from Germany, Egypt, Switzerland, India, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Brazil to tell the good news about Jesus to the German people. Remind kids that God desires His church to spread out to all parts of the world, including Germany. Pray that other missionaries will come to Germany to tell the people about Jesus and how He alone can save them from their sin.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:5 together.

SAY 🗣️ Our key passage comes from the same the Ethiopian official was reading—Isaiah. It reminds us of the good news that Jesus came to save us from our sins. 🗣️

Write the key passage on two dry erase boards but scramble some of the words. Form kids into two teams and invite a kid from each team to circle a word that is out of order. Lead the kids from their teams to say what the correct word is. Continue inviting different kids to circle words until every incorrect word is circled.

Lead kids to sing “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

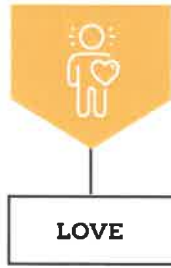
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗣️ Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins. Help us share the good news, like Philip did, with those around us. In Jesus’ name, amen. 🗣️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 8. Remind kids that at the beginning of Acts, Jesus sent out His disciples to be His witnesses in the world. Discuss how Philip was obedient to that command.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem and Gaza (12) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 8:36.

SAY 🗨️ The Lord led Philip right to the Ethiopian man so he could hear the good news about Jesus. Jesus came as the sacrifice for our sins, taking the punishment for sin on the cross, and then rising from the dead. After hearing this good news, the Ethiopian man wanted to follow Jesus and be baptized right away.

The good news of the gospel is for everyone! We can trust Jesus as our Savior and follow him. If you have not trusted Jesus as your Savior and would like to learn more, I would be happy to share more about Jesus with you. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Why is Jesus' death good news? 🗨️

Remind kids that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment our sin deserves. Discuss how Jesus' death is good news because it means we now can have forgiveness of our sin completely and forever. Invite kids to share this good news with others.

SAY 🗨️ How can we follow God and listen to the Holy Spirit like Philip? 🗨️

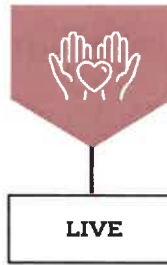
Explain that we follow God by reading the Bible and coming to church to learn more about God's Word. Discuss how the Holy Spirit lives within believers when they trust in Jesus to help them know God's Word and obey it. Remind kids that when we pray, we can also follow God and His Spirit as He speaks to us.

SAY 🗨️ Who can you go to when you need help understanding God's Word? 🗨️

Remind kids that you are available to answer questions they may have or to explain something in the Bible they don't understand. Discuss how other godly adults can help answer questions as well such as the kids ministry leader, parents, and other church leaders. Remind kids that they can also submit a question to Pastor Kevin at Questions from Kids.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: FLAGS OF EUROPE**



Distribute a “Flags of Europe” printable and markers to each kid. Direct kids to follow the patterns on each flag to color each flag correctly. Remind kids to use the key on the printable as a reference.

Discuss how many people come to Europe from all over the world for work, travel, and as refugees. Tell kids that almost 2,000 people groups are represented on the European continent. Discuss how these flags represent some of the countries with people who need to hear about Jesus. Emphasize that Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.

SAY You can hang these flags in your home to help you remember to pray for the people in Europe. We can ask God to send more missionaries and be open to His call to share the gospel and start more churches.

☐ **OPTION 2: TRUE OR FALSE RUN**



Gather kids in the center of the room. Designate one side of the room as the “true” side and another the “false” side. Challenge kids to listen closely as you call out a Bible true or false question from today’s story. If a kid thinks the answer is true, direct him to run to the true side. If he thinks it is false, direct him to run to the false side. Call out as many statements as time allows:

- God sent Philip to the Ethiopian man. (true)
- The Ethiopian man was reading from the book of Jonah. (false)
- Philip baptized the Ethiopian man. (true)
- The Holy Spirit led Peter to the Ethiopian man’s car. (false)
- Philip shared how the book of Isaiah was about the good news of Jesus. (true)

SAY As we read God’s Word, we come to know and understand what is true. **Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.**

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.