



ON FIRE

Philip & The Ethiopian

Supplies Needed: Flashlight



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read Acts 8:26-40 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (See student handout)

Say, “The Church was being persecuted terribly in Jerusalem, but God’s word was still going out to all the people. Philip the Evangelist (not the apostle) preached the Gospel and did many miracles in Samaria, and many people started believing in Jesus. Then, an angel of the Lord told Philip to go somewhere unusual. He was told to go to a desert road in between Jerusalem and Gaza. Philip faithfully obeyed and on the road he met the eunuch from Ethiopia, who was reading the Word of God from Isaiah. The Spirit told Philip to get in the man’s chariot, so Philip started talking to the Ethiopian and led him to believe in Jesus! The Lord will call us to strange places, or He will lead us to do things that feel uncomfortable, but we must trust and obey like Philip. The Lord has people He wants you to meet, too! Let’s talk about some more interesting facts from this story.”



Read the “Did You Know?” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (See student handout)



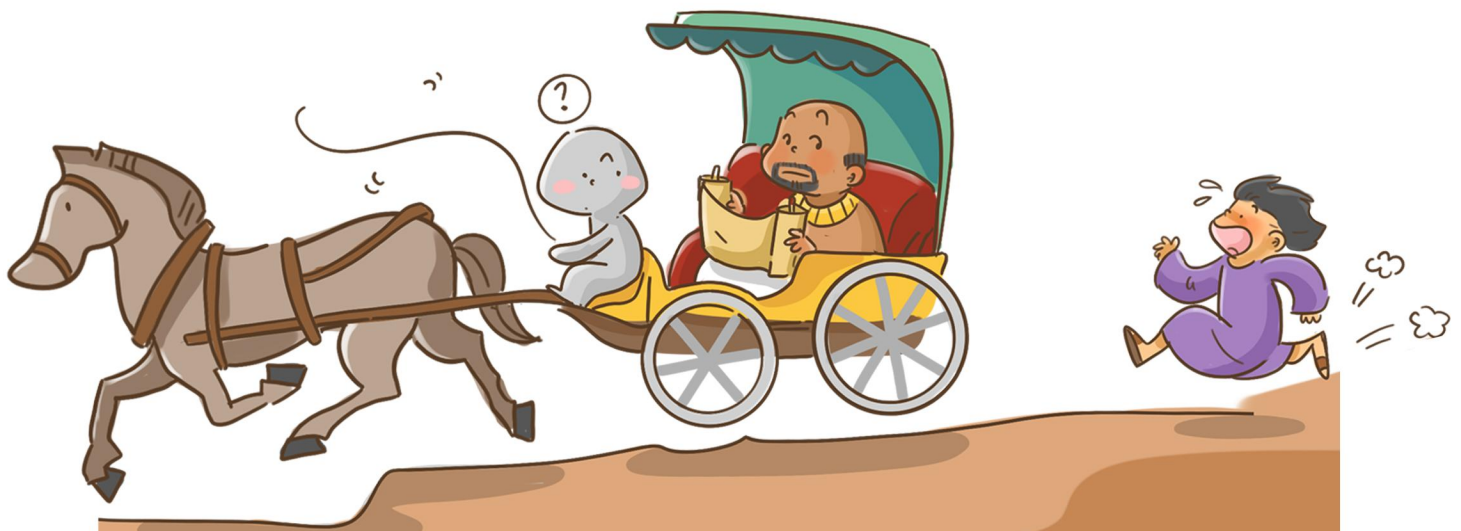
Say, “When you follow God’s lead, sometimes you go places that don’t make sense. God called Philip to go “to the road” in a desert place (Acts 8:26). It wasn’t even a village, just a desert road! Imagine the Lord telling you to go to a desolate road outside your town. God may lead you somewhere unusual to have an impact on just one person or do something that isn’t noticed by others, and this may feel scary or uncomfortable. However, as the Holy Spirit works in your life, He gives you the strength to do what Philip did, listen and obey (Ephesians 3:16).”

OBJECT LESSON

Follow the Light

Items: Flashlight

Say, “Have you ever seen a cat chase around a spot of light?” Allow for sharing. **Say,** “Cats look silly when they chase the light, but it actually illustrates today’s lesson. When God guides us, He doesn’t give us the whole plan. Like a spot of light on the floor, He shows us step by step where to go, and we need to obey and follow. This is how it was for Philip in today’s story. Philip might have wondered why God would send him to a desert road, but he obeyed and God used him. So, we’re going to practice following God’s light no matter where it leads. I’m going to call up a volunteer and shine this flashlight at various places around the room. The volunteer will have to touch the spot with his/her hand or foot as quickly as possible. I’ll let several people try and see who can follow the fastest.” Let several people try. **Say,** “Let’s pray that God will open our spiritual eyes to see where He’s leading, and give us faith and courage to obey Him.”



GAMES

Follow the Light Race

This game is similar to the object lesson. One at a time, each player will chase after a spot of light that you shine around the room. Shine the light at three random, distinct locations, moving the light each time they touch it. Time how long it takes for each player to touch the spot three times. The player with the fastest time wins.



** Optional Memory Verse Game ** The Who Game- John 3:16



Have everyone sit in a circle. Call out different descriptions, like: "Who likes basketball?" "Who has a birthday this month?" "Who is wearing red?" Each time you call out, everyone who fits that description stands and says the verse together.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the Ethiopian eunuch's job? Why did he come to Jerusalem?
- 2 Why do you think God sent Philip to meet him on the road?
- 3 How do you prepare yourself to follow God's lead as Philip did?

