

June 21 – Philip and an Ethiopian

Sunday School Bible Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Commentary from Megan

We're back in the CPH curriculum this week and for the next few weeks as we finish out unit 3. This unit was meant to be a survey of some New Testament Bible Lessons. These lessons are from the early Church, after Pentecost.

Resources in this PDF

Lesson 11 Opening

Lesson 11 Activity Page – Brought to Faith Venn Diagram (see note on second page for help)

Philip's Hidden Pictures page

Philip's Journey – Maze from Jerusalem to Gaza

Philip and the Ethiopian Word Search

Scripture Snapshot

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.

Discussion Ideas

Who are some people who help you? God gives us so many people to help us. Sometimes you get to be the helper. How do you help people? Have you ever helped someone by running? The Holy Spirit helps us too. How did the Holy Spirit and running fit together in our New Testament story today?

Philip hurried on foot to catch up with the Ethiopian man's chariot. Do you think you could run and catch up with a chariot, or would you need the Holy Spirit's help like Philip?

The man from Ethiopia 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?

What is the job of the Holy Spirit? (To help us with our faith. He's sort of our "Holy Helper.")

How does the Holy Spirit do this? (Through Baptism and God's Word.)

The Ethiopian was a grown-up when he was baptized. Many people get baptized when they are children, but grown-ups can get baptized too. What do you remember or know about your Baptism? (This would be a good introduction to the Lesson 11 Activity Page – Brought to Faith Venn Diagram)

Philip taught the man what God's Word said so he would believe in Jesus. After his Baptism, the Ethiopian left, joyfully praising God. God loves all the people in the world and wants them to hear from the Bible the truth about Jesus. Why does knowing Jesus is your Savior make you want to rejoice? How can you share this joy with others?

The man riding in the chariot was from Ethiopia. Find Ethiopia on a map. How far away was Ethiopia from Jerusalem? Look online to find out more information about Ethiopia. How many Christians are there today? Pray for Christians in Ethiopia.

Sending Philip to help the Ethiopian man understand Scripture and baptize him was very strategic. This Ethiopian man was very wealthy (only wealthy people could buy their own scrolls) and he had access to the highest echelons of government. This event was the beginning of the spread of the Gospel throughout Africa.

Other Ideas & Resources

Field Trip: Go to Global Gifts (safely) and look at the jewelry and other goods created by people around the world. Try to find something made in Ethiopia or a country near Ethiopia.

[Children's Message Video](#) from St. Paul in Munster, IN

Songs

[This Little Light of Mine](#) – with actions

[Power in Your Word](#) – with actions

[Let's Go, Go, Go!](#)

[Jesus Loves Me](#) – with lyrics and actions

[I was Baptized \(Happy Day\)](#)

[God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It](#) with lyrics

Other Lessons

If you would like Father's Day Lessons, Crafts, or Ideas, visit ministry-to-children.com. There are several ideas on their Home page.

Prayers

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

Lesson 11 Activity Page – Brought to Faith Venn Diagram

If you need help thinking of ideas, ask questions like these:

1. What was the Ethiopian doing before he was baptized?
2. Was the Ethiopian an adult or a child when he was baptized?
3. Where was the Ethiopian baptized?
4. Who was present at the Ethiopian's Baptism?
5. What happened after the Ethiopian's Baptism?

Then, have your child(ren) answer the same questions about themselves.

LESSON 11 OPENING

A DEACON DELIVERS: PHILIP AND AN ETHIOPIAN

Here is an important message for God’s children. *Hold up first poster.* Usually I ask one of you to read, but the words are quite large. Will it be okay if I read it for you? *Read poster.* Did you understand what I read? *No.* You are not alone. Long ago, in the days after the first Easter, a man read a message that he didn’t understand. This man worked for the queen of Ethiopia. (Ethiopia is a country in Africa.) He was reading some of Isaiah’s words from the Bible, but he didn’t understand what they meant. The Holy Spirit knew about the man’s trouble, so He sent another man named Philip to explain Isaiah’s words.

Imagine Philip running along next to the Ethiopian’s chariot. He must have been out of breath as he shouted, “Do you understand what you are reading?” (Acts 8:30). The man answered, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (v. 31). In today’s lesson, you will learn more about how this true story turns out.

Remember this poster, the one with the big words? *Indicate first poster.* You would need to attend school for many years before you could read and understand all these difficult words. But the Holy Spirit makes it easy to know what is most important. He puts the Good News in words most people can read and almost everyone can understand. Who will read this? *Show second poster and allow a volunteer to read the message.* Yes, Jesus loves you very much. He loves you so much that He suffered and died to take away your sins.

Do you ever get tired of hearing someone say, “I love you”? We always welcome those wonderful words. Jesus says those words to us each week in church and Sunday School. We hear how much God loves us when the pastor speaks. We thank God for loving us in the words we pray. And when the church service ends, the pastor blesses us in God’s name—another way of telling us that God loves us.

Your Sunday School teachers are like Philip in some ways. They tell you what it says in the Bible. They know at least fifty-two ways to tell you how much Jesus loves you. Each week, they tell Bible stories about how God takes care of His people. I hope you want to come back every Sunday to hear more true stories about Jesus.

Pray: Thank You, Lord, for speeding Philip to the Ethiopian. Thank You also for sending pastors and Sunday School teachers to us. We want to hear how much You love us too. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Acts 8:26–40

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit works through the Word and Baptism to give faith.

FAITH FOCUS

The Nature of Baptism

LAW & GOSPEL

Without faith, we cannot understand the Word of Christ.

The Holy Spirit works through Word and water to bring us to faith in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

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

VISUAL HELPS

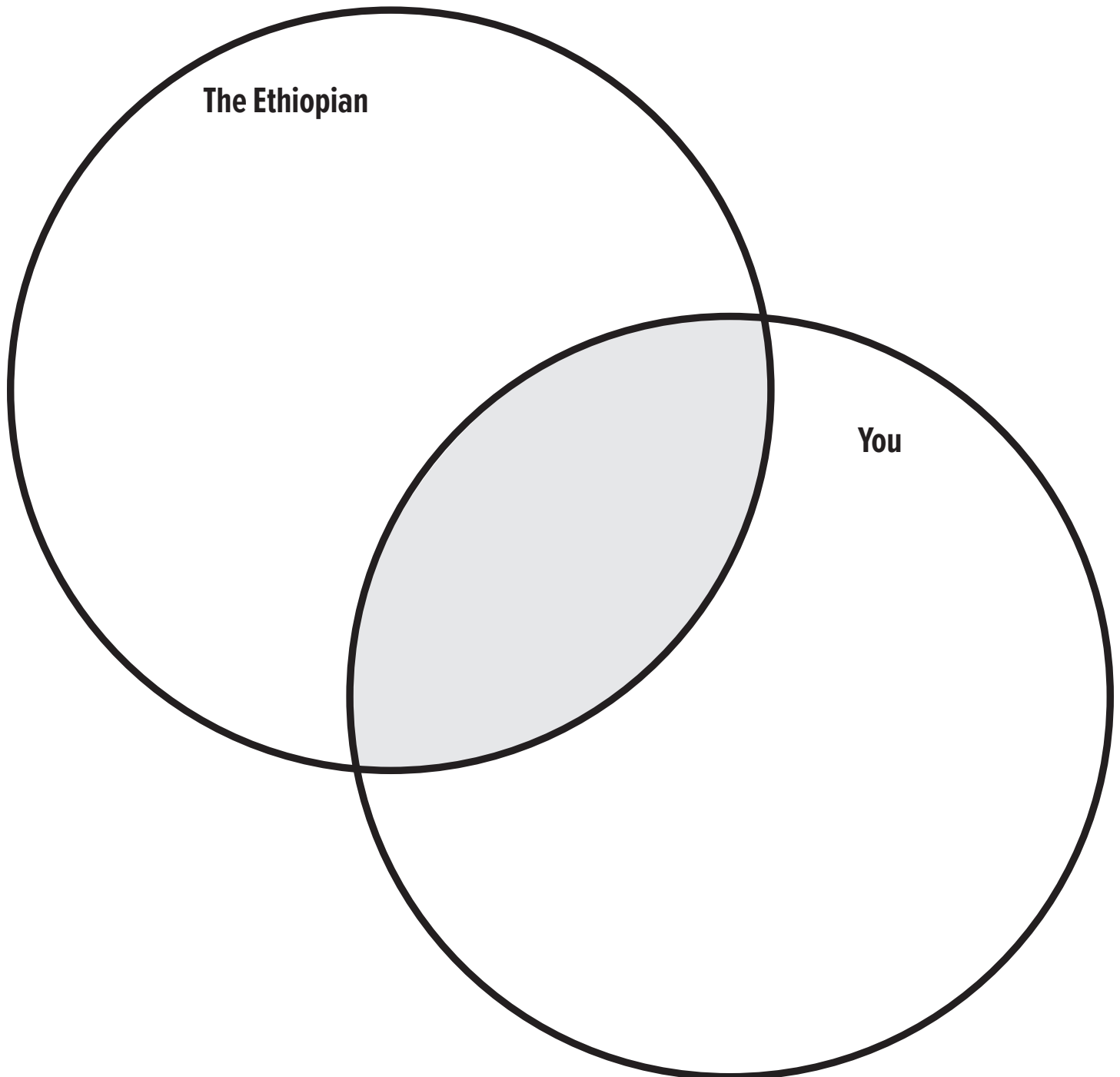
Poster board on which is printed “Yahweh is the benevolent and supernatural divinity whose penchant for acts of agape transcends human cognitive ability”; a second poster on which is printed “Jesus loves you very much”

A DEACON DELIVERS—PHILIP AND AN ETHIOPIAN

Unit 3, Lesson 11

Brought to Faith

Directions: The Holy Spirit works through Word and water to bring us to faith in Jesus, our Savior. Using the diagram below, compare the Ethiopian's Baptism with yours. In the areas of the circles that do not intersect, describe the differences between the Ethiopian's Baptism and your Baptism. In the area where the circles intersect, describe how both Baptisms are the same.



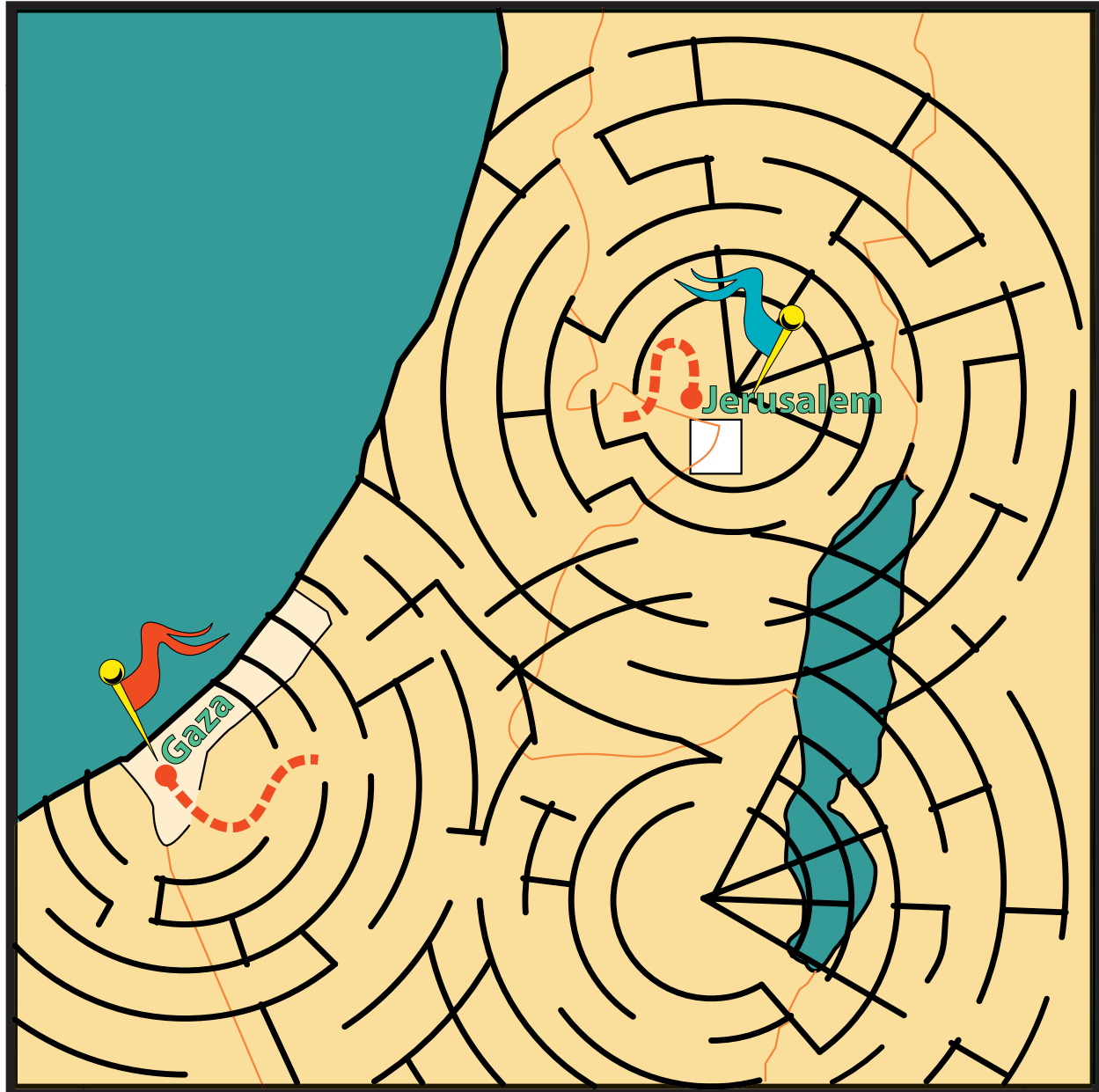
Philip's Hidden Pictures

Find each of these items hidden in the picture: keyhole, olive, cow horn, star, ice cream cone, snowman, fish, candle, easter egg, screwdriver. When you find all the items you may color the picture.



Philip's Journeys

Follow the desert trails from Jerusalem to Gaza.
Don't cross over any water or black lines.



Philip and the Ethiopian Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

F Z B Z A T E N P D S R W M D
A O M R Q N G A Z A A I A H N
C T R A O F G B F J M Z T U U
H V B G X C Y E E S A H E L A
A K O S I H G R L X R L R I A
R R R M A V U M Y N I A B P O
I B H I R S E R O I A E I B E
O M H N A O B N N M Y N S B T
T S W L K U A P E W R R A Y H
I G E M N G U D J S U M I Z I
V R H A Q R N E E S S U A W O
B A P T I Z E D S N L U H C P
P H I L I P V L U I Y K D I I
O D K L X K T Y S S E D Q J A
J E R U S A L E M R I P I Z N

ANGEL
BAPTIZED
CHARIOT
ETHIOPIAN

FORGIVENESS
GAZA
ISAIAH
JERUSALEM

JESUS
PHILIP
ROAD
SAMARIA

SINS
WATER