

Philip and the Ethiopian

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference

Acts 8:26-40

Church Season

Easter 5

Lesson Focus

Tell others about Jesus.



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids explore elements of the story Philip and the Ethiopian.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD, Coloring Pages



Supplies

Paper, glue sticks, crayons or markers, CD player, colorful scarves, variety of large pieces of cloth (towels, sheets, etc.)

Circle Time

Kids talk about megaphones and telling others good news as a way to enter the story.

Leaflet

Megaphone from Play Time

Prayer Time

Kids echo the leader's words and actions as they pray.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Philip and the Ethiopian Storytelling

Kids provide sound effects for the story of Philip and the Ethiopian.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Help Me Understand!

Kids color and use stickers to complete a leaflet picture.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Crayons or markers

Lesson At-A-Glance

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Letter to Someone I Love Kids draw a picture of someone they want to tell about Jesus.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Envelopes, glue sticks, paper, crayons or markers
The Word of Jesus Spreads Kids color in the name <i>Jesus</i> and watch the colors spread.	Leaflets	Water-soluble markers, water, spray bottle (optional)
I Can Tell Others! Kids play a game to understand more about telling others about Jesus.	Leaflet	Cup, water

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the day and say a good-bye rhyme.	Leaflet	None
Prayer Time Kids pray together with their leader.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, set out paper, markers or crayons, and glue sticks. Put the Spark Song CD in the CD player and have it playing as kids arrive. As kids enter your space, invite them to decorate a piece of paper and roll it up in the form of a megaphone. Have a sample on hand to show kids. Kids can also choose to dance and sing along with the music. **Songs are often used to tell others about Jesus.** Lay out the large pieces of cloth on the floor and encourage kids to make a road out of cloth. **Role play together by walking on the road and telling a friend about Jesus. You might say, Jesus is alive! Jesus loves you! Jesus is my friend and your friend, too.** Provide copies of this lesson's Coloring Page for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When everyone has had time to play, ask them to put away all of the supplies and join you in a circle on the floor. Teach them this chant to say along the way.

1-2-3. Come with me. (clap three times)

4-5-6. Let's sit down quick. (clap three times)

7-8-9. I think it's time (clap three times)

For us to sit for Circle Time!

Circle Time

Welcome kids enthusiastically! **Hello, everyone. I'm glad to see you! Let's say and play a rhyme to see who's here!** Repeat this rhyme using each of the kids' names.

[Name]'s here!

[Name]'s here!

Clap your hands and give a cheer!

[Name] is in God's house today!

Hooray! (clap and cheer)

Hold up the leaflet, pointing to the seasonal color and icon. **What color and shape do you see?** (*gold cross*) **We are in the church season of Easter. This gold cross reminds us that Jesus died but lived again on Easter!**

Did you know that each and every one of you can tell others about Jesus? Let's see who can tell others about Jesus . . . Start listing some basic characteristics of the kids in front of you. As you say things that describe them, have them stand up. **Stand up if you are wearing socks. YOU can tell others about Jesus! Stand up if you are wearing blue. YOU can tell others about Jesus!** Continue until everybody is standing up.

With everyone standing, lead the kids in a cheer: **I can tell others about Jesus!** Point to yourself. **You can tell others about Jesus!** Point to someone else. **We can all tell others about Jesus!** Everyone put his or her hands up in the air. Repeat the cheer a couple of times, inviting kids to join in.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Paper

Glue sticks

Crayons or markers

CD player

Colorful scarves

Variety of large pieces of cloth (towels, sheets, etc.)

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Megaphone from Play Time

Tear here for easy use!

Invite everyone to sit back down. **As you came in today, some of you made megaphones.** Hold up one of the megaphones. **What are megaphones used for?** Let kids respond. **Megaphones are used to tell a lot of people a very important message. Today we are going to hear about a man named Philip who had a very important message to share. Philip didn't use a megaphone to share this message. He sat down with someone and told him the name of someone important. Who do you think Philip was talking about?** If kids respond, shrug your shoulders and say, **We'll have to find out. As we read the story today, keep your ears open to see if you hear the name.**

Prayer Time

Let's pray. Watch and listen. Repeat what I say and do.

Dear Lord, (hands over heart)

Help us to understand, (hands on head)

To hear, (hands over ears)

And to tell your word (hands over mouth)

To the whole world. (make circle with arms)

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Philip and the Ethiopian Storytelling

It's time to hear a story from God's word, the Bible. In this story, a man named Philip shared God's message with everyone he met! Today he will be traveling on a hot and dry road when he meets another man who is trying to understand something. I am going to need your help to tell the story.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Hand out a copy of the Spark Story Bible to each of the kids. Help them find Philip and the Ethiopian on page 510 and invite them to follow along with you as you read it. Then read it again and have kids make the actions you make and echo the words of Philip as instructed below.

- **So Philip set out along the road.** (hit palms on the floor to make "traveling noises")
- **He ran up to the chariot.** (hit the floor faster)
- **Philip told him, "Jesus was the Son of God. He came to earth and saved us."** (repeat Philip's words)

After the story, ask kids the following questions. **Where was the man in the chariot from?** (*Ethiopia*) **Who did Philip tell him about?** (*Jesus*) **What did the man say he would do after he was baptized?** (*share the good news about Jesus with everyone*)

We can tell others about Jesus. The people we tell can tell other people. The good news of Jesus spreads when we tell it to others.

Help Me Understand!

Gather kids together around a table. Hand out the leaflets, one for each kid and direct them to the front of the leaflet.

We just read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. Philip shared a very important message with someone he met. What was that message? (*Jesus came to save us.*) **After Philip told the man about Jesus, they went to the water and did something important. What was it?** (*The Ethiopian was baptized.*) **When we are baptized, we become children of God. God has a very important message that we can tell others. Let's find out what it is.**

Point to the scroll and the three shapes: the rectangle and the two circles. Ask kids to name the shapes. Then distribute the three stickers for the activity. **There is an important message on this scroll. Place the rectangle-shaped sticker on the rectangle.** Give kids time to do this. **Whose picture is on that sticker?** (*Jesus*) **Place the sticker of the heart on the first circle.** Give kids time to do this. **What could this heart mean?** (*love*) **Now put the letter sticker on the last circle.** Give kids time to do this. **What letter is that?** (*U*) **That is a pretty amazing message. Now, I want you to whisper that message to a friend.** Encourage kids to whisper to more than one friend in the group. **Now, say it using only your hands. Watch me.** Encourage kids to follow these actions as you do them:

Jesus (use the ASL sign illustrated at right)

Loves (cross your fists over your heart)

You! (point to a friend)

Good job! Now let's see how loud we can yell it! 1 - 2 - 3 - JESUS LOVES YOU!

What a great message we have to tell everyone!

Distribute crayons or markers. **Philip told someone about Jesus and now we can, too. Draw yourself next to Philip at the top of your paper.** Invite kids to do so.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Crayons or markers



Jesus

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Letter to Someone I Love

Have kids turn to the back of the leaflet and find Letter to Someone I Love. Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to respond to each. **Have you ever received a letter or card? Who was it from? Did it say anything special? Today we are going to fill an envelope with pictures of people we love.**

Help each of the kids glue the envelope on the leaflet, making sure the open side faces out. **Now, draw pictures of people you love and can tell about Jesus on pieces of paper. Who are some people you could draw?** (*Grandma, Daddy, my sister, my teacher, etc.*) Allow time for kids to draw.

When kids are done, encourage them to put the pictures inside the envelope. **As you put your drawings in the envelope, imagine you are sending the people in it the important message that Jesus loves them! The next time you see them, give them their pictures and tell them that Jesus loves them.** Distribute heart stickers.

Let's add more love to your letters. Invite kids to decorate the envelope with the sticker.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

4" × 6" (10 cm × 15 cm)
envelopes (one per kid)
Glue sticks
Paper
Crayons or markers

Tear here for easy use!

The Word of Jesus Spreads

Direct kids' attention to The Word of Jesus Spreads on the back of their leaflet. **The name of someone great is written here. What name is that?** (*Jesus!*)

Encourage kids to color in the name of *Jesus* on the leaflet using various colors. As they work, say the letters in the name together.

When they are done, sprinkle or mist one kid's leaflet and hold it up for all to see. Wet it until the color spreads to the people pictured at the bottom. **Look how Jesus is spreading to all the people! When we tell others about Jesus, we help the good news of Jesus spread!**

As you sprinkle each kid's artwork with water, ask the following, allowing time for kids to answer. **Whose name did we color in?** (*Jesus*) **What makes the colors run?** (*the water*) **When was water used in the story?** (*when the Ethiopian was baptized*) **What does this coloring remind us?** (*that when we tell others about Jesus the good news of Jesus spreads to others*)

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Water-soluble markers
Water
Spray bottle (optional)

I Can Tell Others!

Gather kids in a circle. Hold up a leaflet and point out the Easter icon and color.
Right now, we are in the season of Easter at church. What do we celebrate during Easter? (*Jesus is alive, Jesus is good news for everyone to know about because Jesus loves everyone.*)

We can tell everyone we know the good news about Jesus. In our story today, the Ethiopian man was baptized with water when he heard good news about Jesus. Let's sing a song together and pass this cup of water around us as we sing. When the song ends, whoever is holding the cup will stand up and say, "I can tell others about Jesus!"

Sing this song to the "ABC" tune.

**ABCDEFG. God loves you and God loves me.
HIJKLMN. I can help others see.
QRSTUVWXYZ. Let me tell you what it means.
WXYZ. God loves you and God loves me.**

The kid holding the cup of water stands and says, "I can tell others about Jesus!" Repeat the game as time allows. **Anytime is a great time to tell everyone the good news about Jesus!**

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather the group in a circle on the floor. **Today we have learned some ways we can tell others about Jesus. We can whisper his name or yell his name. We can send a letter to others letting them know Jesus loves them. Make sure you ask someone at home about the Faith on the Go! There's an idea to help you remember that you can tell others all week long.**

Before we go, let's say good-bye with a rhyme. Repeat the rhyme until all of the kids have been named. Give each kid a hug or high-five following the rhyme.

**Good-bye, [Name],
Our great friend.
God will be with you
Until we meet again!**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Cup

Water

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Let's end our time together with a prayer. Please repeat each line after me.

**Thank you, God,
For loving me.
Help me tell others
Of your love for me.
Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!