

Desert Journey Maze

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the maze to help Philip get to the Ethiopian official.



NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

The Church Spread Out

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- One day, God sent Philip to a desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza. The Holy Spirit led Philip to an Ethiopian man's chariot.
- The Ethiopian man was reading from the scroll of Isaiah. He asked Philip who Isaiah was speaking about.
- Philip shared how the Scripture was about Jesus. Then, as they came to some water, Philip baptized the Ethiopian man.

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.

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.



The Church Spread Out (Acts 8)

Dear families,

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.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God wants us to tell others about Jesus.
- **Younger Preschool:** The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.
- **Older Preschool:** The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.
- **Kids:** 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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.
- **Older Preschool:** Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.
- **Kids:** Why did Jesus become human?

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5
- **Younger Preschool:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5
- **Older Preschool:** Punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. Isaiah 53:5

- **Kids:** He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. Isaiah 53:5

**** Next week:** Jesus Suffered for Us (Philippians 2)