

## Lesson 42: Philip and the Ethiopian

### Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord You call us to share our love for You with everyone we meet. Teach us how much You love us so that we can tell others how wonderful You are. Teach us to cherish our Baptism and let it remind us everyday of Your love.

Amen.

**Memory Work:** As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The official said to Philip,  
“Look, there’s some water. What can keep me from being baptized?” *(Acts 8:36)*

**Focus:** The focus of this lesson is pointing out what Baptism does and who can receive it. It makes us a child of God. It is for anyone who believes that Jesus dies and rose to forgive sins.

**Lesson:** Acts 8:26-40

### Points of Interest:

8:37 You might notice this verse is missing in most translations. That’s because there is almost no chance that Luke write those words when he wrote the book of Acts. All of the oldest man manuscripts do not contain those words.

An angel from the Lord said to Philip, “Get up, and take the desert road that goes south from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So Philip went.



An Ethiopian man who had come to Jerusalem to worship was on his way home. The man was a eunuch, a high-ranking official in charge of all the treasures of Queen Candace of Ethiopia.

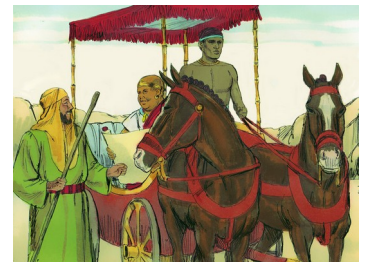


As the official rode along in his carriage, he was reading the prophet Isaiah out loud.

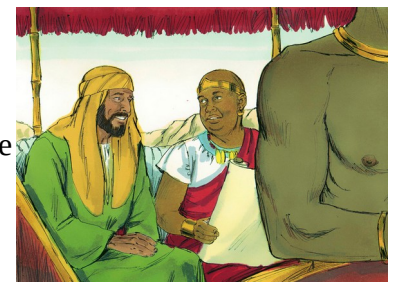


The Spirit said to Philip, “Go to that carriage, and stay close to it.”

Philip ran to the carriage and could hear the official reading the prophet Isaiah out loud. Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”



The official answered, “How can I understand unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to sit with him in his carriage.



This was the part of the Scriptures that the official was reading:

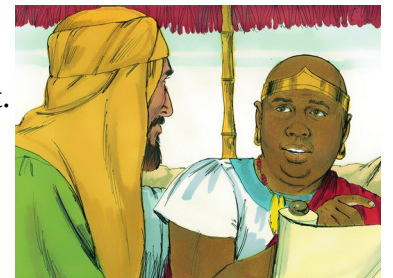
“He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. He was like a sheep that is silent when its wool is cut off. He didn’t open his mouth.



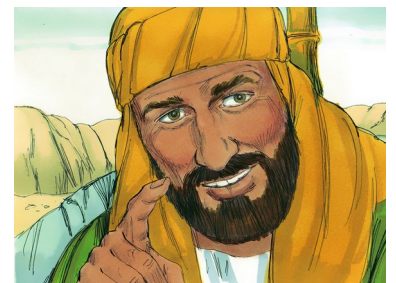
When he humbled himself, he was not judged fairly. Who from his generation will talk about his life on earth being cut short?



The official said to Philip, “I would like to know who the prophet is talking about. Is he talking about himself or someone else?”

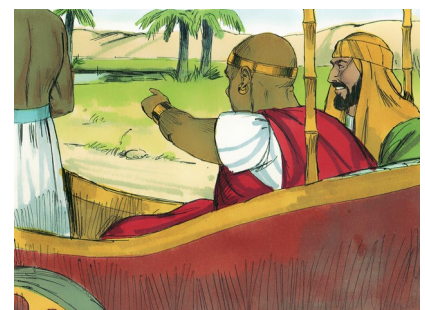


Then Philip spoke. Starting with that passage, Philip told the official the Good News about Jesus.



As they were going along the road, they came to some water.

The official said to Philip, “Look, there’s some water. What can keep me from being baptized?”



The official ordered the carriage to stop. He and Philip stepped into the water, and Philip baptized him.



When they had stepped out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away.

The official joyfully continued on his way and did not see Philip again.



- **Who spoke to Philip?** The Holy Spirit
- **What did he tell Philip to do?** Go to the road.
- **Who did Philip meet?** An official. The treasurer for the Queen Candace.
- **Where was he from?** Ethiopia.
- **What was he doing when Philip met him?** Reading from the prophet Isaiah. (*See Isaiah 53:7-8*)
- **What was his question to Philip?** What do these words mean?
- **What did Philip tell him.** The words (*written over 600 year earlier by Isaiah*) were about Jesus, who came to die so that we could live.
- **What was his next question to Philip when they saw the water?** Why can't I be Baptized?
- **What did Philip do to the man?** Baptized him.
- **What happened to Philip?** The Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away.

**Closing Prayer:** In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord Jesus, remind us that through Holy Baptism we became children of God. By Your Holy Spirit keep us in that faith we received in our Baptism all of our life. Help us to share the wonder of the love You have for us always.

In Jesus' name. Amen.