The enemies of Jesus began to attack and harm the believers who lived in Jerusalem. They went from house to house, arresting believers and throwing them into prison. Soon it was no longer safe for followers of Jesus to be in Jerusalem, so many of them went to live in other cities. Wherever they went, they continued to tell people the good news about Jesus.

One of the believers who left Jerusalem was a man named Philip. He was one of the seven men who had been chosen to help the disciples care for the poor. Philip went to a city in Samaria. He told the people there about Jesus, and many of them believed that Jesus was their Savior.

One day God sent an angel to Philip. The angel told him, “Leave Samaria, and go to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Philip did as he was told. As he walked along the road, he saw a man riding in a chariot. This man had come from a faraway land called Ethiopia. He had an important job. He was in charge of all the gold and silver that belonged to his queen.

The man had come more than a thousand miles to worship God in the temple in Jerusalem. Now he was on his way back home. As he rode in his chariot, he was reading out loud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to that man in the chariot.”

So Philip ran up to the chariot. When he came close, he could hear the part of God’s Word the man was reading. Philip asked him, “Do you understand the meaning of what you are reading?”

“How can I understand it,” answered the man, “unless someone explains it to me? Please ride with me. You can tell me what these words mean.”

So Philip got into the chariot. The man then showed Philip the passage he was reading and asked, “Whom is the prophet talking about in these words?”

Then Philip explained to the man that the words of the prophet were about the Savior whom God had promised to send. He said that the prophet was telling how Jesus would suffer and die for the sins of all people. Then Philip told the man all that Jesus had done.

As they traveled down the road, they came to a place where there was a pool of water. The man said, “Look, here is some water. Is there any reason why I shouldn’t be baptized?” He told his driver to stop the chariot. Then the man and Philip went down into the water. There Philip baptized him.

As they stepped out of the water, God suddenly took Philip away and the man could not see him anymore. God sent Philip to other places to teach about the Savior.
The man was very happy as he made the long trip back home to Ethiopia. He had learned to know Jesus as his Savior and had been baptized.

In this lesson we learn how God the Holy Spirit led Philip to share God’s Word with a man from Ethiopia.

1. God wants you to show love to people by telling them about Jesus. Your offerings help missionaries share the Savior with people in other countries. What people can you tell in your own part of the world? Add their names to the heart.

2. How could you witness in a restaurant or at a ball game? Have family members offer ideas and write them inside the shapes.

Pray Together
Help me say to all the world, “Jesus is the risen Lord!”
Help me tell them, “You’re forgiven, And you have a home in heaven.” Amen.

* Matthew 28:19
* The Third Commandment
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

* Hymn 573:2
If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment’s dread alarms, You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.