Like Stephen, Philip was one of the seven men who had been chosen to help the apostles with their work. When Saul began persecuting believers, Philip left Jerusalem and went to a city in Samaria. There he told the people about Jesus and performed miracles in Jesus’ name. Many men and women believed Philip’s message and were baptized.

One day God sent an angel to Philip. The angel told him, “Get up and go south to the road that runs from Jerusalem through the desert to Gaza.” Philip left Samaria and headed south as he was told.

As he walked along the road, he saw a man from Ethiopia riding in his chariot. He was an important man in his country because he was in charge of all the queen’s money. He had been in Jerusalem to worship at the temple and was now on his way back home. As he rode along in his chariot, he was reading from a book of the Bible—the book written by the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit told Philip, “Catch up with that chariot and walk along beside it.”

Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. He asked the man, “Do you understand the meaning of what you are reading?”

“How can I understand it,” the Ethiopian replied, “unless someone explains it to me?” He then invited Philip to climb up into the chariot and ride along with him.

This was the part of Scripture the Ethiopian was reading:

“He was led away like a sheep that is to be killed, and as a lamb is silent before the man who cuts off its wool, so he did not open his mouth.”

The man asked Philip, “Tell me, who was the prophet talking about in these words—himself or someone else?” So Philip explained that Isaiah was talking about the Savior, who would suffer and die for the sins of all people. He showed the Ethiopian that Jesus was the Lamb of God—the promised Savior about whom Isaiah had written. Then Philip told the man all that Jesus had done to save sinners.

As they traveled along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. “Look!” the Ethiopian exclaimed. “Here is some water. Is there any reason why I shouldn’t be baptized?”

He ordered the driver of the chariot to stop. Then the Ethiopian went down to the water with Philip, and Philip baptized him.

When they stepped out of the water, God suddenly took Philip away. But the man’s heart was filled with joy as he continued on the long
road home to Ethiopia. He had learned to know Jesus as his Savior.

Meanwhile, Philip found himself in a city called Azotus. He traveled through all the towns around there until he arrived at Caesarea. And everywhere he went, he preached the good news that Jesus is the Savior.

The Ethiopian man received the greatest gift of all—the gift of faith in his Savior. God wants all people of the world to hear the gospel message that Jesus is our Savior.

1. Find out what your child’s current Sunday school mission project is. Talk about that project with your child, and recall some other recent mission projects. Point out that often our mission money is sent to help people in other countries learn about Jesus. Discuss why this work is important, and encourage your child to give gladly to support this work at every opportunity. (Note: If mission money is often forgotten in the busy-ness of leaving in the morning, work together to find a way to remember the offering, such as putting a reminder on the calendar or laying out an offering envelope the night before.)

2. Have an open discussion with your family about race and prejudice. Discuss why it is wrong to dislike people simply because of their race. Emphasize that God loves all people and sent Jesus to die for everyone, regardless of race or nationality. He wants all people to be saved, and as Christians, so do we. Encourage your children to show Christian love toward everyone, including those who are from other races or different parts of the world.

Pray Together
Dear Lord, help us show love and concern for all people. Spread your saving Word so that people everywhere may learn about Jesus as their Savior. Amen.