I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12  
(NIV 1984)
How did God show his love for a man from Ethiopia?

God the Holy Spirit led Philip to share God’s Word with the man from Ethiopia and then brought him to faith.

**Application:** God uses believers to share his Word in many different ways and situations.

**Response:** We ask God to give us many opportunities to share his Word.

**Lesson Summary:** Philip had been chosen as one of the seven helpers for the disciples, and the Holy Spirit brought many people to faith through Philip’s teaching in Samaria. But Philip was also chosen by God to demonstrate what making disciples of all nations means. An angel of the Lord told Philip to travel to Gaza along the desert road. There Philip preached the gospel of Jesus to an Ethiopian official, and God brought that man to faith.

* Matthew 28:19
* The Third Commandment (with explanation)
* Hymn 573:2

**Looking Back at Lesson 11**

**Stephen**
Acts 6:1–8:4

**Aim:** Why did Satan fail to destroy God’s church?

**Truth:** Satan could not destroy God’s church because the Holy Spirit gave the believers courage to keep telling people about Jesus.

**Application:** The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to boldly tell others about Jesus.

**Response:** We tell others about Jesus even when our efforts are threatened.

**Lesson Summary:** Stephen was one of the men chosen to care for the poor Christians in Jerusalem. God blessed Stephen as he told people about their Savior and gave him the ability to do miracles. The Jewish leaders became very angry with Stephen, but he boldly spoke to the Jews about the Savior. The furious Jewish leaders stoned Stephen to death. The Holy Spirit continued to bless the Christians with courage to tell others about Jesus.

**Memory Treasures:** *Matthew 28:20b; 1 Peter 5:8b; Hymn 200:1*

Dear Lord, help me be more eager and willing to witness to all people, including people of backgrounds and cultures different from my own. Make me a positive witnessing example for my students. Amen.
You need a box containing a variety of toy cars.

Sing: Show the cars, and ask the children how they could sort them. [By size, color, style, age, etc.] Explain that unfortunately people are sometimes sorted in similar ways. Then remind the children that God wants all people to be saved. It does not matter to him if they are short or tall; rich or poor; male or female; light, dark, or in between. God loves all people and wants them to believe in the Savior and go to heaven. Sing “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.”

Pray: Dear Jesus, when you look at the people of the world, you see that we are all the same: We are all sinners who need a Savior. Thank you for being that Savior. Help us share the good news of salvation with people like us and people different from us. Amen.

You need a paper plate with “sinner” written on one side and “saved” written on the other.

Show the children the “sinner” side of the plate. Remind them that all of us were lost sinners before we came to faith in Jesus. Explain that we are still sinners but that because of our faith in Jesus, a change has taken place. Flip the plate over to show “saved.” Tell the children that we have all been changed. We are no longer lost sinners but saved sinners who want to serve the Savior.

In today’s lesson God shows love to a sinner from a country far away from where most of the early Christians lived. Listen to find out how God showed his love for a man from Ethiopia.
Put the following items in a **bag** and display them at the appropriate times as you tell the story:

- **map** (The angel told Philip to go to the road that led from Jerusalem to Gaza.)
- **money** (The Ethiopian man took care of money for the queen.)

- **Bible with bookmark** in Isaiah (The man was reading from Isaiah.)
- **picture of Jesus** (Philip taught the man about Jesus.)
- **bottle of water** (The Ethiopian man was baptized.)

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.”
the following ways God showed love for the Ethiopian man:

- “God sent an angel to send Philip to a certain road.”
- “God led Philip to tell the man about Jesus.”
- “God brought the man to faith.”

Students will draw on the board.

**Do** Have a few students come to the board and draw pictures of places where they might be able to tell others about Jesus.

**Say** I see that none of you drew a road as a place to tell others about Jesus.

**Ask** Who told someone about Jesus on a road in our lesson? [Philip.] What was a man from Ethiopia doing as he rode in his chariot? [Reading from the book of Isaiah.]

**Say** God guided Philip to the man, and today God guides us to people who need to hear about Jesus.

**Ask** What would Philip have been sure to tell the man about Jesus? [About Jesus’ suffering and death for people’s sins and his resurrection.]

**Say** The man probably spoke differently and dressed much fancier than Philip.

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.

**Discuss** You need a Bible and will write on the board. Make a copy of Copy Master 2, and cut apart the pictures. Write each of the following sentences on a separate paper strip:

- “God sent an angel to tell Philip to travel on the desert road.”
- “Philip told the man from Ethiopia about Jesus.”
- “The Holy Spirit brought the man to faith through God’s Word.”

**Say** In this lesson we learned that God sent an angel to Philip and told him to travel on a certain road.

**Ask** Whom did Philip meet as he traveled on this road? [A man from the faraway country of Ethiopia.]

Why do you think he was reading from God’s Word? [He was interested in learning from God’s Word.]

**Do** Show a Bible.

**Say** God’s Word tells us again and again that Jesus is the Son of God. The angels said this when Jesus was born. God the Father spoke about his Son when Jesus was baptized. Jesus did many miracles to show he is the Son of God. Whenever we read, hear,
and learn God’s Word, the Holy Spirit makes our faith in Jesus, God’s Son, stronger.

**Do** Write “How did God show his love for a man from Ethiopia?” on the board. Underneath, attach the first sentence strip. Read the sentence aloud. To help nonreaders, on the strip draw an angel pointing to a road.

**Say** Although God might not use angels to tell us where to travel as he did with Philip, he does still guide us to people who need to hear about Jesus.

**Ask** What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do? [Go to the man in the chariot.]

What did Philip ask the man? [Do you understand the meaning of what you are reading?]

What wonderful news did Philip share with the man? [Philip told the man all that Jesus had done.]

**Do** Attach the second sentence strip under the first. Read the sentence aloud. Draw a cross on the strip to help nonreaders.

**Ask** What did the man ask Philip when he saw the water? [Is there any reason why I shouldn’t be baptized?]

What did Philip do for the man? [Baptized him.]

Why was the man very happy? [He learned about his Savior and was baptized.]

**Do** Attach the third sentence strip under the second. Read the sentence aloud. Draw a Bible on the strip to help nonreaders.

**Say** God gave Philip a special opportunity to share the Word with someone who needed to hear it. I’m going to show you two pictures of times we can share God’s Word.

**Do** Show the fast food meal made from the copy master.

**Ask** What can you do at a restaurant to praise God and let others know you trust in him? [Pray before eating.]

**Do** Show the picture of the man in a wheelchair.

**Say** Pretend you and your parents visit this man each week and take him food. After a few visits, he asks, “Why are you being so nice to me?” God is giving you an opportunity to witness to the man.

**Ask** What might you say? [I want to show love to you and other people to say thank you to Jesus for saving me from my sins. He loves me...]

**Ask** What lesson can we learn from Philip? [We can tell people who are different from us about Jesus.]

**Say** God loves all people. Jesus has asked us to share the good news about him with everyone, not just with those who are like us.

**Ask** Philip preached God’s Word to the man, but who brought the man to faith? [God the Holy Spirit.] What did the man ask Philip when he saw the water? [Is there any reason why I shouldn’t be baptized?] Why did the man go home happy? [He had learned about his Savior and was baptized.] The Bible doesn’t tell us what the man did when he got home, but what might be one thing he did? [Told others about the Savior.]

**Do** Now have the children who drew on the board tell about the places they drew and how they could tell people in those places about Jesus.
Draw two or all of the following on the board: swing at a park, bus, airplane, simple stethoscope.

Say Philip told a man riding in a chariot about the Savior.

Ask Who brought the man to faith? [God the Holy Spirit.]

Say God uses us believers to share his Word in many different ways and places.

Do Point to each of the pictures you drew, and have a child identify it.

Ask How might you share Jesus at a park, on a bus, on an airplane, or at a doctor’s office? [Various responses.]

Do Sing “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying” (hymn 573:1,2).

Student Idea: See the pictures on your student lesson? Read the activities to find out what to put in each one.

Say and gave his life on a cross to save me from my sins. And guess what! He also loves you and died to save you! And he came back to life to give you life in heaven someday.]

Say We ask God to give us many opportunities like these to tell others about him.

CLOSE Print “Philip,” “Ethiopia,” and “Holy Spirit” on the board.

Do Have a reader point to each word and read it to the class.

Ask Which word tells us who told a man about Jesus? [Philip.]

Ask Which word tells us where the man in the chariot was from? [Ethiopia.]

Ask Which words tells us who brought the man to faith? [Holy Spirit.]

Say We ask God the Holy Spirit to give us many opportunities to share his Word.

Do Read the following poem. Lead the children in doing the actions.

Help me say to all the world, (fold hands to pray) “Jesus is the risen Lord!” (cup hands around mouth as if to shout)

Help me tell them, “You’re forgiven, (make cross with fingers) And you have a home in heaven.” (point up)

Parent Idea: If your child is able to read the Bible story on the student lesson, have him or her read the words in quotations as you read the rest. If your child is still learning to read, read the story aloud and stop once in a while to let your child complete the thought or sentence.
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.

• Begin by singing “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying” (hymn 573:1,2).

• Use either idea in Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.

• Speak to the children about what types of mission work they are and are not able to do right now. They realize that they are too young to be foreign missionaries, and they may feel that they don’t know how to teach God’s Word as well as Philip did. Explain that sometimes we can share God’s Word in ordinary places and by doing pretty ordinary things. Ask the children to think of ways they could tell others about Jesus in the following situations:
  – after a movie with a friend
  – before eating pizza at a restaurant with your baseball team
  – sitting on a school bus
  – visiting the monkeys at the zoo with a friend who talks about people coming from apes

Remind the children that the Holy Spirit will give them courage to teach people about Jesus and that Jesus is always with them.

• Lead the children in performing the suggested actions as you say the following words:

Help me say to all the world,
(fold hands to pray)
“Jesus is the risen Lord!”
(cup hands around mouth as if to shout)
Help me tell them, “You’re forgiven,
(make cross with fingers)
And you have a home in heaven.” (point up)

• Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Act It Out

*Purpose:* To review the lesson by acting it out.

*Procedure:* Serve as the narrator while four children act out the lesson. The characters needed are Philip, the man from Ethiopia, an angel, and the voice of the Holy Spirit. Repeat as often as necessary to give each child an opportunity to participate.

Choral Reading

*Purpose:* To read quotations from the Bible story.

*Procedure:* Choose four students who are good readers. Show them the student lesson quotations of the angel, Philip, the Holy Spirit, and the man from Ethiopia. You read the narrative parts as the four actors read their portions. If you have a class of readers, assign each of the four parts to a different group of children to read as you narrate. *Suggestion:* If necessary, nod to the group that is to read next.

2. Application

“Something Important”

Greeting Card

*Purpose:* To make a mission greeting card.

*Procedure:* Remind the children that God uses believers to share his Word in many different ways and situations. Explain that they will make greeting cards to share with others. Give each of the children a duplicate of Copy Master 3, and have them do the following steps:

- Color the picture of Jesus.
- Cut the large rectangle out on the solid lines.
- Fold the paper on the long dotted line so that one side of the paper shows the picture of Jesus and the opposite side says, “I want to tell you something important.”
- Fold the paper on the short dotted line so that the words are on the outside of the card.
- Write an important message about Jesus on the inside of the card.

The children’s cards can be placed in standard-sized envelopes and shared. You may wish to hand them out along with invitations to a church service or ask your pastor to deliver them to shut-ins.

3. Music

Songs to Sing

*Purpose:* To sing songs that reinforce the lesson application.

*Procedure:* Teach and sing one or more of the following songs:

- “Love!” from Copy Masters 4.1 and 4.2.
- “Ev’rybody Ought to Know” from Copy Masters 3.1 and 3.2 of Year 3, Winter, Lesson 12.
- “Amigos de Cristo” (Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House) is a song with a Spanish phrase meaning “We’re friends of the Lord.”
- “Jesus Loves Me” (Let All the People Praise You, Northwestern Publishing House) can be sung in English, Apache, Chinese, German, Hmong, Japanese, Spanish, and Tonga languages. See the Let All the People Praise You index to locate the various translations.
- “I Have the Joy” (Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House) is a song in which the children sing of the joy in their hearts because they know Jesus. The refrain encourages them to share him with others.

4. Art

World Mission Mobile

*Purpose:* To make a mobile reminding us that God wants us to tell others about the Savior.

*Procedure:* This project will take part of two sessions. Help the children make mobiles from 12” to 14” cardboard circles. They should:
• Paint one side of the circle blue, and let it dry.
• Cut out enough magazine pictures of people to cover the circle. Also cut out a large cross from construction paper.
• Glue the pictures and then the cross on the unpainted side of the circle.
• Use green paint to make continents on the blue side of the circle.

Help each child punch a hole near the top of the circle and add a long loop of yarn for hanging the mobile. Remind the children that God wants them to tell people in the world about the Savior and that the Holy Spirit will use the words they share to bring others to faith.

5. Review and Apply

Nonreader

Purpose: To use a color code to show who said story and application sentences.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 5 for the children to complete. Help the children identify each crayon color in the answer key, and then have them color the three crayons the appropriate colors. Also help them identify the running man as Philip, “GOD” with rays as God the Holy Spirit, and the man in the chariot as the man from Ethiopia. Then read each quotation, and allow time for the children to color the crayon in front of it.

God’s Word in the Lesson: 1. blue, 2. green, 3. green, 4. red, 5. green

God’s Word in My Life: 1. red, 2. red

Reader

Purpose: To decide whether story and application sentences are true or false.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 6 for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: Chariots 1, 4, 5, and 6 should be colored, and the others should be crossed out.

God’s Word in My Life: All three sentences are correct and should be circled.

Challenge

Purpose: To review the facts of the story by deciding which word is incorrect in fact sentences.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 7 for the children to complete.


6. Other Ideas

Dot-to-Dot

Purpose: To reinforce the truth of the lesson with a dot-to-dot puzzle.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 8 for the children to complete. The finished dot-to-dot will read “Go Tell.”

Fill in the Blank Game

Purpose: To aid in the memorization of memory treasures.

Procedure: Write a memory treasure on the board, omitting as many words as you have students. If you are using a long memory treasure, or have few students, you may omit two words per student. Write the words that you have omitted on separate slips of paper. Shuffle the slips, and give one to each student. Then read the memory treasure together. When you come to a blank, have the child with the correct word tape the slip of paper in place. Then read the memory treasure from the beginning again, repeating the activity until the memory treasure is complete.