

Sunday, May 11, 2025

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

PHILIP BAPTIZES AN ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:26-39

Key Verse:

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to [the Ethiopian] the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:35

The Point:

We can learn about God through the most surprising people.

Making Connections:

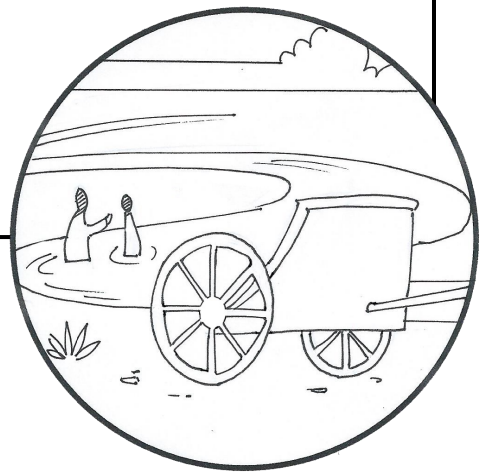
Birth of the Church

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Bible Resources

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

We have been learning about how the early church grew. The last Scripture we read was about Stephen's death. In between that and today's story, there are those in Jerusalem who have continued to persecute the followers of Christ. Did the early church stop spreading the word? Of course not! Instead, followers like Philip went on the road. They left Jerusalem and ensured that the good news spread.

Story Summary:

Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian

Within Jerusalem, followers of Jesus are being persecuted. For safety, they begin to leave Jerusalem, and the church spreads beyond its earliest boundaries. Philip, one of seven new leaders, needs to flee persecution. An angel appears to him and tells him to head south to Gaza.

On this very road, there is an Ethiopian man who is riding home from worship in Jerusalem and reading from the Book of Isaiah. The Spirit tells Philip to go join the man in his chariot. The Ethiopian welcomes Philip and asks for guidance in studying the Scripture. Philip shares with him the good news of Jesus Christ.

When he notices water by the side of the road, the man asks to be baptized right then and there. Philip baptizes him before being snatched away by the Spirit. The Ethiopian rejoices in his baptism!

The Point

We can learn about God through the most surprising people. From Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian, we are reminded that we never know when or where we can grow in our relationship with God. Whether we see it as simply life's events or as the Spirit moving in our lives, we are led to encounters where God is present. We should be open to this transforming love.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Bible Resources

Who is Philip? Where is Gaza? What is a chariot? Reading any Scripture passage can leave people of all ages and backgrounds with plenty of questions. Fortunately, there are numerous resources available to help us find answers for the many questions that we have, including other people, concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and many others.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

For our Spiritual Practice focus of worship, we will be looking at the sacrament of baptism. Different communities celebrate baptism in various ways, but it remains an essential part of our Christian identity and an important milestone in worship.



PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

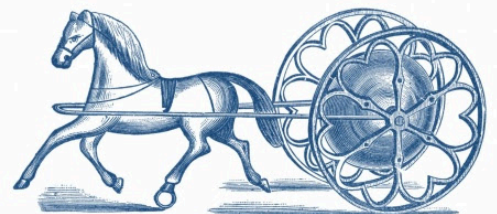
Discover the hidden words.

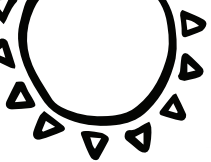


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B	S	E	L	Y	R	A	Z	T	X	V	J	A	H	Q
S	C	G	Q	S	E	L	R	R	O	A	V	P	O	C
T	H	R	G	S	A	V	G	A	L	J	L	T	E	W
M	Z	E	F	M	S	A	M	N	W	P	D	I	Y	H
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K	E	X	I	O	P	V	E	D	Y	H	R	K	X	Z
W	E	N	L	X	F	I	Q	J	P	Y	E	B	D	G
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	A	X	I	H	I	I	G	Z
Y	L	Z	R	K	W	V	I	N	I	S	A	I	A	H

Word Bank

CHARIOT	JERUSALEM	JESUS
ETHIOPIAN	TREASURES	ISAIAH
PHILIP	BAPTIZED	SHEEP
GAZA	TRANSPORTED	SALVATION





MY MOM



My mom is _____ years old and weighs _____ pounds.

My mom's hair is _____.

My mom likes to wear _____.

My mom's favorite word is _____.

My mom is really good at _____.

If I had \$1,000, I would buy my mom _____.

My mom thinks it's funny when I _____.

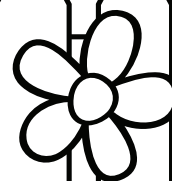
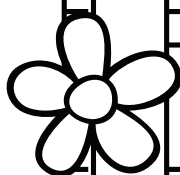
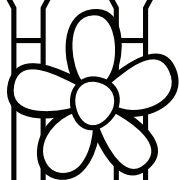
My mom's favorite food is _____.

I love my mom because _____.

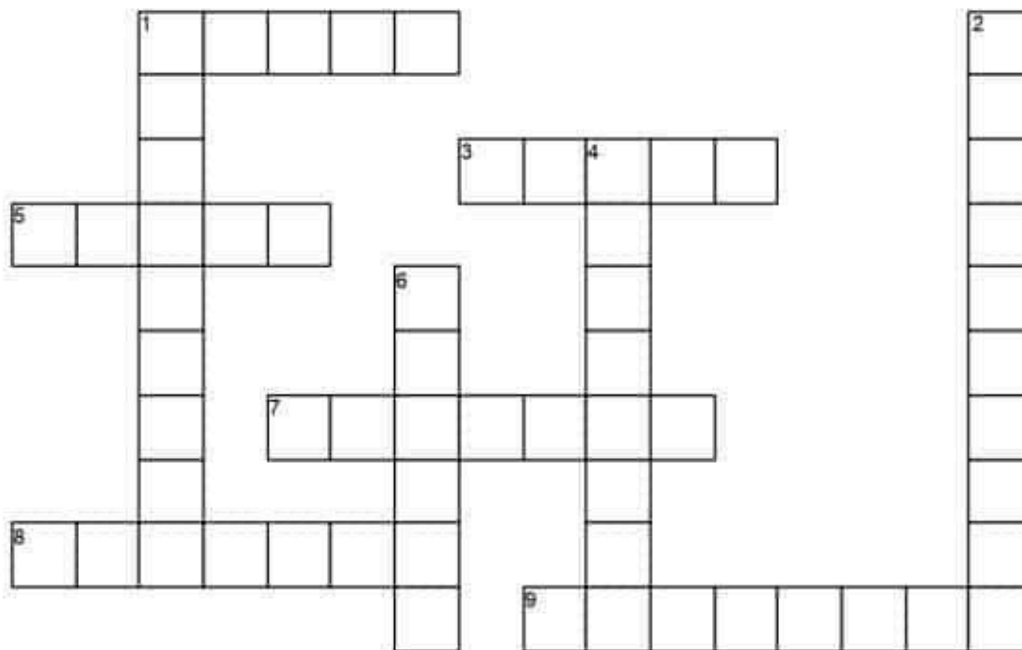


HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Love, _____



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Philip told the man the good news about _____.
- 3 The man worked for the _____.
- 5 Which direction did the angel tell Philip to go?
- 7 The man was riding in a _____.
- 8 Where was Philip when the angel spoke to him?
- 9 The man asked to be _____.

DOWN

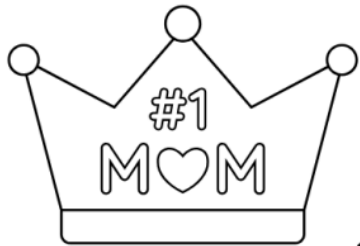
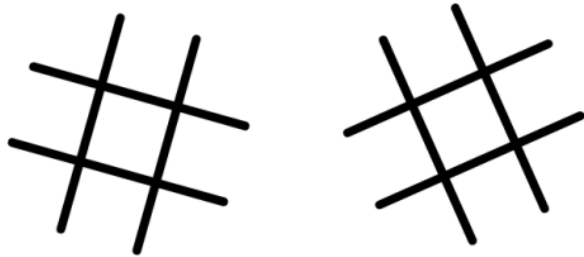
- 1 Where had the Ethiopian man been to worship?
- 2 Philip asked, "Do you _____ what you are reading?"
- 4 Where was the man in the chariot from?
- 6 Which book of the Bible was the man reading?



Happy Mother's Day



Tic Tac Toe



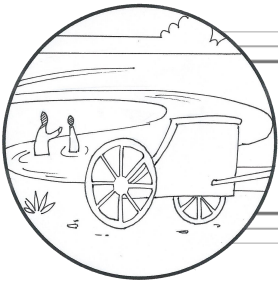
Color this skirt with your mom's second favorite color

Color this blouse with your mom's favorite color



Find your way through the maze to get to the heart!





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-34
Acts 8:26-39

LAST WEEK

After Pentecost, a disciple named Stephen teaches about Jesus and does miracles. He preaches to the religious leaders, but then he is stoned to death. (Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60).

THIS WEEK

The Holy Spirit directs a disciple named Philip to continue to spread the good news. Philip encounters an influential man from Ethiopia and teaches him about Jesus (Acts 8:26-39).

THE POINT

We can learn about God through the most surprising people.

STORY SUMMARY

Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian

An angel appears to a disciple named Philip and tells him to head south to Gaza. On this road, there is a man from Ethiopia who is riding home from worship in Jerusalem and reading from the Book of Isaiah. The Spirit tells Philip to go join the Ethiopian in his chariot. The man welcomes Philip and asks for guidance in studying the Scripture. Philip shares with him the good news of Jesus Christ. When he notices water by the side of the road, the man asks to be baptized. Philip baptizes him before being swept away by the Spirit. The Ethiopian rejoices!

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Bible Resources

Who is Philip? Where is Gaza? What is a chariot? Reading any Scripture passage can leave people of all ages and backgrounds with plenty of questions. Fortunately, there are numerous resources available to help us find answers for the many questions that we have, including other people, concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and many others.

PRACTICE: WORSHIP

For our Spiritual Practice focus of worship, we will be looking at the sacrament of baptism. Different communities celebrate baptism in various ways, but it remains an essential part of our Christian identity and an important milestone in worship. Share what you know or remember about baptisms in your family.

NEXT WEEK

A major disagreement arises in the early church, so the apostles gather together to discuss it and come to an agreement. This is the first church council (Acts 15:1-18).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Where do you see the message that "It is GOOD" in this Scripture?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Acts 8:26-39

Philip encounters a man from Ethiopia on the road to Gaza and shares the good news with him! Have every family member share their favorite Bible story.

Monday—Read Acts 9:1-19

On the road to Damascus to persecute Christians, Saul encounters Jesus and is converted. Take turns being blindfolded while walking around the room, and imagine what it means to be without sight.

Tuesday—Read Acts 9:20-31

Saul begins to spread the word. Many are suspicious of Saul, but works hard to help the Church grow. Pray for people who face challenges as they work to spread the word of God. Pray for opportunities to share God's love with others.

Wednesday—Read Acts 9:36-43

Tabitha's friends and neighbors were very sad when she died, and so they were very happy when Peter raised her from the dead. When has something sad turned into something happy for you or people you know?

Thursday—Read Acts 10:34-48

Peter declares that God shows no partiality, and the Holy Spirit comes upon the Gentiles who are then baptized. Learn how to say "God loves us!" in six different languages by doing an Internet search.

Friday—Read Acts 11:19-30

The early church continues to spread, strengthen, and organize. Find a map and find where Antioch was (near modern-day Antakya, Turkey) in relation to Jerusalem. Notice how the early church was growing!

Saturday—Read Acts 12:6-19

Peter is saved from prison by an angel. Draw pictures of what you think an angel might look like. Would you recognize an angel in your life?