



LESSON 78

All Grades

Principle: Sharing faith.

Bible Character: Philip and the Ethiopian

Scripture Reference: Acts 8:26-40



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 8:26-40. Also read Matthew 26:63-64 and 27:57-60, which are passages that parallel the Isaiah 53 passage found in Acts 8:26-40. We will see how Philip shared his faith with a stranger. Unlike the lessons so far, Philip had no immediate threat of arrest, prison, or death. Philip's obedience, availability and willingness to care and share with another can be applied directly to the campers' lives. We will also look at the Isaiah and Matthew passages to further equip the campers to share about Jesus and know more of who He is. Do you look for opportunities to share your faith, no matter how strange the opportunities seem to be, or do you wait for them to come to you? Do you initiate conversations with others? Are you excited about telling others what God has done in your life?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Ask the campers . . . who is in their life who they can share their faith with. Make a list of these people on the white board.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will see that we don't have to be a Bible Scholar to share our faith; we need to be obedient, available and care about those we are sharing with. The campers will have an opportunity to explain scripture and share their faith.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did Bible Scholar say about talking to others about Jesus? (He said that you have to know everything about the Bible, and have all sorts of references and translations of the Bible.) **What did Bible Scholar learn?** (We do not need to know everything about the Bible; we just need to obey Jesus' command to tell others about Him and trust that He is always with us.)

Last week we talked about being bold and strong in the choices we make and in telling others about Jesus. We saw that we might suffer when we share our faith and what Jesus has done in our life. Stephen died because he continued to speak the truth. We saw how God equipped, or gave, Stephen the strength to stand up and speak the truth. We saw God supply Stephen with exactly what he needed to face death. God gives us everything we need to share our faith with others, no matter what kind of suffering we might experience.

Today we are going to see how God supplied or equipped Philip with what he needed to tell someone else about Jesus. Let's begin in Acts 8 [NLT].

Acts 8:26-30a

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God gave Philip two instructions. He told him to go south to the desert road towards Gaza, and then he told him to go to the chariot and stay near it. Philip obeyed both instructions immediately. He didn't know why God was asking him to do this, but he didn't question God's instructions. He obeyed immediately.

Let's keep reading to see why God wanted Philip there.

Acts 8:30b-31

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

Philip did not stand back and let the man start the conversation. He stepped in and asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip did not know this man, but he knew that God had placed him in this situation. He was bold; he trusted God and obeyed Him. Philip explained the scripture and told this man who Jesus was and what He had done. He acted with boldness by asking a question to get the conversation started.

Acts 8:32-35

³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.*

*³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?"³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

The Ethiopian man was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8. Philip did not force the man to listen. He answered his questions and explained who Jesus was and what he did. Philip came alongside him and told him the truth he knew. He didn't force him to believe; he just presented him with the truth. This is what we are called to do as well.

Philip's Way of Sharing His Faith



The purpose of this activity is to outline Philip's approach to sharing his faith.

Supplies:

Response cards (1 set per bin)

Bucket with "True" sign (1 per bin)

Bucket with "False" sign (1 per bin)

Timer (1 per bin)

Pass out response cards to the campers. After reading and reviewing Philip's response to God and to the man, read the cards with the campers. After all the cards have been read, start the timer and have the campers put the cards in the correct bucket before the timer goes off. After all cards have been placed in their appropriate bucket, review the true card responses with the campers and talk about how they can apply them in their lives.

Tie It Together



We have seen how different people have shared their faith with others over the past couple of weeks. Philip was walking along a road when God provided him with an opportunity to share his faith with others. Walking along a road is a pretty ordinary thing to do! We need to be open to opportunities to share as we go about our ordinary life. Let's review the true cards and see how Philip began sharing.

- 1st – He was obedient to God's leading.
- 2nd – He made himself available.
- 3rd – He asked the man a question. He showed interest in someone else
- 4th – He shared what he knew.

Let's continue reading.

Acts 8:36-38

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?"³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

This man believed the truth that Philip spoke. He believed in who Jesus was and what Jesus had done. Philip baptized this man because he believed. His baptism was an outward symbol of what this man believed. Baptism does not provide salvation; it is only a symbol of what someone believes.

Acts 8:39-40

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

What would you think if someone that you were talking with just disappeared? Would you be surprised or scared? The man was not scared or fearful; instead he went on his way full of joy.

Philip was obedient, available, and caring. He shared what he knew and God used that to change this man's heart. The man believed the truth that Philip spoke. We are called to be obedient, available and caring. We are also called to share what we know.

A Man's Questions & The Bible's Answers



The purpose of this activity is to examine the Isaiah prophecy to better understand who Jesus is and how He is the answer people are searching for.

Supplies:

- Isaiah 53 passage below
- Towel or pillowcase for turban (1 per bin)
- Rope (1 per bin)
- Chairs (in rooms)

*“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.
He was humiliated and received no justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”*

Have the campers act out the scripture passage. Use the chairs to set up a chariot, have one camper use the towel as a turban to represent the Ethiopian man and another camper can use the rope around their waist to represent Philip. When the Ethiopian asks what the Isaiah passage means, have the campers try to explain the passage and then share what they believe. If time allows, let each camper be Philip so that they can try to explain the Isaiah passage.

Tie It Together



Sometimes it is hard to understand what the Bible means. It can be even harder to explain what it means to other people. We can trust that God will give us the words to say to other people, but He wants us to study His word and learn the truth. We do that here at Camp Grace, but you can also do this on your own as well. It is very important that we spend time praying and reading God's Word. We need to ask questions when we do not understand so that we can continue to learn.

Movie Ticket



The purpose of this activity is to reinforce that we are to be obedient and share what we know; we don't have to be fearful of not knowing the answers because Jesus is with us.

Supplies:

Card – movie ticket side (1 per camper)

On the movie ticket side, have campers list people with whom they can share the Good News.

Tie It Together



When we see a movie we like, we are quick to tell others all about it and encourage them to go see it. We should be the same way with our faith. When God does something in our lives, we should be quick to share that with others. We should be more excited to look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ than we are to tell someone about a movie. What do you believe? What would you tell others? We do not have to be intimidated about knowing all the answers and where every book of the Bible is. We need to be willing and available to share what we know. God gives us all we need to be bold and confident like Stephen and Philip in sharing our faith with others.

Baptism



The purpose is to help the campers understand the meaning of baptism.

Supplies:

Card – “Baptism is” side (1 per camper)

Talk through the meaning of baptism and remind campers to take these cards home to be reminded of people with whom they can share their faith, as well as what baptism is and means.

Tie It Together



After Philip shared his faith with the Ethiopian man, the Ethiopian man asked to be baptized. He wanted to publicly show that he had put his faith and trust in Jesus as Savior. He left his old life behind and began a new life as a follower of Christ. Baptism is not what saves us from our sins; Jesus is the one who died for our sins so we can have eternal life. We are called first to repent of our sins and turn to Jesus, and then to be baptized. Baptism is a public display that you believe Jesus is your Savior; it is a symbol that you have died to your old self and have been given a new life in Christ. Baptism is an act of obedience in doing what God asks us to do, and allows us to identify with Jesus and what He did for us. Here at Grace, we have an opportunity coming up for you to be baptized if you feel God leading you to do so. If you feel that God wants you to be baptized, talk with your parents and have them help lead you through the process.



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