

Do You Understand?

Acts 8:26-39; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 106-109

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, “Dad read.*

“Do you think an angel would ever speak to me?” Trevor interrupted, his eyes shining.

Dad smiled. “It really would be awesome, wouldn’t it? And yes, it’s possible that someday God may use an angel to speak to you. However, whether you hear God’s message from an angel, the Bible, or godly people, the important thing is that you obey, as Philip did.” He patted Trevor on the back, and together they continued reading.

The angel said to Philip, “Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road.” So Philip got ready and went.’ “

Dad looked up. “Did you catch that?” he asked. “The angel only told Philip where to go. He didn’t tell him why or what would happen when he got there. And Philip didn’t ask questions. He just went.”

Dad read on. “ ‘On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, an important officer in the service of the queen of the Ethiopians. He was responsible for taking care of all her money.’

“Hmmm,” Dad thought aloud. “That



Ethiopian couldn’t have been traveling alone. He was a high government official. He must have had soldiers to protect him. And he had servants too.”

Dad began to read again. “ ‘He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet. The Spirit said to Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” So Philip ran toward the chariot.’ “

The Message

We serve when we help
others understand the Bible.

Memory Verse

**"I am not ashamed of
the gospel, because
it is the power of
God that brings
salvation"**

(Romans 1:16).

"He did it again!" Trevor exclaimed. "God spoke to Philip again!"

"He sure did," Dad said. "And Philip obeyed right away—again. I think that's why God could use Philip so well. Philip was a man who listened. And he was always eager to do what God wanted to get done.

"Listen to the rest of the story," Dad went on. "He heard the man reading from Isaiah, the prophet. Philip asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He answered, 'How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!' Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him."

"Well, I guess *then* Philip knew why the angel sent him to the desert!" Trevor said.

"I think you're right," Dad agreed. "The Ethiopian was reading a verse that says, 'He was like a sheep being led to be killed. . . . He was shamed and treated unfairly.' The Ethiopian man looked at Philip and said, 'Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about?' So Philip jumped right in. He told the Ethiopian the good news about Jesus.

"And do you know what happened next?" Dad asked.

"What?"

"Well, as they were riding down the road, studying together, they came to some water. And the Ethiopian said, 'Look! Here is some water! What is stopping me from being baptized?' So Philip baptized him. And *then* do you know what happened?"

"What?"

"The Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The Ethiopian never saw him again!"

"Wow!" Trevor breathed.

Dad smiled. "This story really shows us how God will do whatever it takes. He will find a way to reach someone who wants to know Him. And He uses the people who already know Him to help others understand."

"Do you think someday He'll use me?" Trevor looked at Dad hopefully.

Dad put his arm around Trevor's shoulder and gave him a hug. "I'm *sure* He will!"



*Note: Quotations are taken from Acts 8:26-36, *International Children's Bible*.

S A B B A T H

DO If possible, take a ride with your family. Make believe that you are riding with Philip and the Ethiopian. While riding, read the lesson story.

READ Read Isaiah 53:7, 8 together. This is the scripture the Ethiopian was reading. What does it mean?

DO Teach your memory verse song to your family.

PRAY Pray that God will help you tell others about Jesus.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Acts 1:8. Talk about what this verse means to you.

DO Think of someone in your Sabbath School who is too young to read the lesson alone. Call and tell that person the story. Help them learn the memory verse.

The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53 when Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading.



S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read the lesson story from Acts 8:26-39. Look in the back of a Bible, an encyclopedia, or, with your parents' permission, on the Internet for a map of Bible lands. Find Jerusalem and Gaza on the map.

DRAW Draw a picture of a "desert road." (For ideas, see "desert" in an encyclopedia or, with your parents' permission, on the Internet.) What might you have seen on the desert road where Philip met the Ethiopian? Add Philip and the Ethiopian in the chariot to your picture.

PRAY Pray for people who are traveling today.

SING Sing your memory verse song.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read Acts 1:8 again. Choose a Bible story. Make some pictures about it. Use the pictures to help you tell the story to a neighborhood friend. Find a definite time to visit your friend. Pray before you go.

FIND Find Ethiopia on a map. Find out five facts about Ethiopia today. Pray for missionaries who work there.

DO Say or sing your memory verse to a friend.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Acts 8:30, 31. Read together and talk about your memory verse. Do you understand it? If not, ask your family to help you.

DO Read together Luke 24:36, 45. Who opens our minds to understand the Bible?

SING Sing "Open Our Eyes" (He Is Our Song, no. 149).

THURSDAY

SHARE

Share your Bible lesson with an older person. Show them your "How I Learn About God" booklet that you made in Sabbath School. Then tell your Bible story and say your memory verse.

DO

Ask someone to tell you about their baptism. Talk to your family about being baptized. When will you be ready?

FRIDAY

DO

During worship, sing or say your memory verse together. Then act out the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. When you tell about the Ethiopian reading the Scriptures, read aloud Acts 8:32-35 (or Isaiah 53:7, 8). Tell how you would have explained Jesus to him. Then finish acting out the story. Ask your parents to tell you about accepting Jesus.

PRAY

Pray for the people with whom you shared the Bible this week. Write their names on a strip of paper and use it as a bookmark in your Bible.

Philip and the Ethiopian

PUZZLE

Directions: Connect the dots to find out what happened to the Ethiopian when Philip explained the prophecies of Isaiah. Then color the picture.

