

HomeWord
For Parents

The early church grew despite the fact that the disciples were arrested and forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:17–18). The arrests and condemnation only served to make the apostles bolder as they prayed for help and courage from the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:29–31).

Their preaching angered the religious leaders. Tensions rose until Stephen, the first martyr for Jesus, was dragged from the city and stoned to death for proclaiming the gospel (Acts 7:54–59). Because of this new wave of violent persecution, Christians scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1–3). As they fled their persecutors, their faith went with them, and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached in other areas.

The apostle Philip could be considered the first missionary of the early church. He traveled to the city of Samaria, doing miracles and preaching Christ to

them. The people responded with joy to the truth of the gospel (Acts 8:4–8).

God then sent Philip south, along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, where he was able to preach to an Ethiopian. This man of Ethiopia listened to Philip as he discussed the book of Isaiah and explained that it was Jesus whom Isaiah had written about. The Ethiopian believed Jesus was the Son of God and was baptized (Acts 8:26–37). And as he was a man of great authority in Ethiopia, who worked for Queen Candace, it is likely his testimony and changed life furthered the gospel in that region (Acts 8:27).

Persecution is real. God ordains it and uses it to grow His church and fulfill the Great Commission. It started in the first century, when the Christians were scattered, and they went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:1). And it continues today.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord For Family Discussion

Suppose you were talking to a friend and she said she didn't believe that God would ever want her to suffer or go through hard times because He loves her and wants only good things for her. **What could you say?**

God does love everyone. He calls believers His children! But God's Word does not say that believers will never go through hard times. He doesn't promise we will always have everything we want. In fact, God tells us to be careful of treasures on earth. God wants us to depend on Him. If our lives are easy all the time, we will be more likely to depend on ourselves. Suffering and difficulties are often gifts from God because they help Christians turn to God and His Word for help and comfort. You see, God does want what is best for us, but what is best is not part of the world. What is best for us is Jesus Christ, salvation, forgive-ness of sins, and the hope of eternity in heaven one day. And if God has to bring suffering into our lives to help us remem-ber that, then He will—because He loves us so much!

inWord For Family Study

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). You want your children to walk in God's way, on His path. Only His Word can direct them. Help them to know His Word. Study and memorize it together as a family.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



The Gospel Spreads

 **Key Theme**

- God wants other people to learn about Jesus.

 **Key Passages**

- Acts 8:26–28, 8:35, 8:38



What You HEARD in the Word

- Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus. God wants other people to learn about Jesus.

Ask your child these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Who spoke to Philip?
- 2 Where was the man on the chariot from?
- 3 Who did Philip tell the Ethiopian about?



(1) An angel of the Lord. (2) Ethiopia. (3) Jesus.

Read the Word with Mom & Dad

Monday (Acts 8:26)
Who spoke to Philip?

Tuesday (Acts 8:27)
Where was the man from?

Wednesday (Acts 8:30)
What was the Ethiopian reading?

Thursday (Acts 8:35)
What did Philip preach?

Friday (Acts 8:36)
What did the Ethiopian want to do after he believed?

Saturday (Romans 1:16)
Can you say the memory verse?
We should not be ashamed of the gospel!

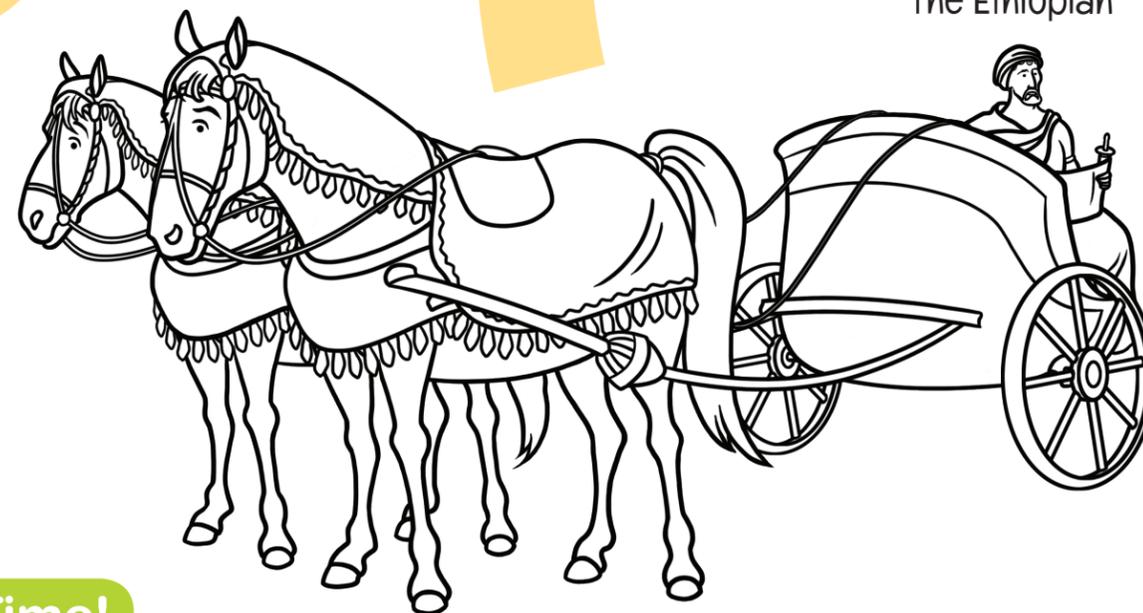
LIVE the Word with Johnny and His Dad



Philip Meets the Ethiopian

God sent Philip to meet the Ethiopian. Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus. The Ethiopian believed! Follow the path Philip took. Then color the pictures.

Philip



The Ethiopian

Learn the Word!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16a

Song Time!

Here is a song you can sing with your family. It's our memory verse, too!

Romans 1:16

(To the tune of "Amazing Grace")

For I'm not a-ashamed

(Amazing grace!)

Of the gospel of Christ,

(How sweet the sound)

For it is the-e power o-of God
(That saved a wretch like me.)

To-o sa-alvation for
(I once was lost,)

Everyone who believes.

(But now am found,)

Romans one ver-erse si-ixteen.

(Was blind, but now I see.)

SNEAK PEEK

What amazing event changed Saul's life forever? Come next week to find out.