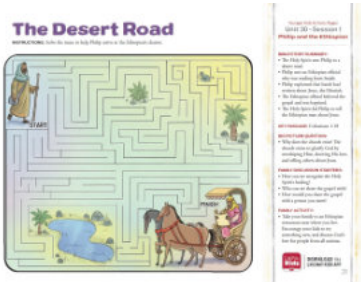




Lesson	Philip and the Ethiopian
Bible Passage	Acts 8
Story Point	God is a PROMISE KEEPER
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

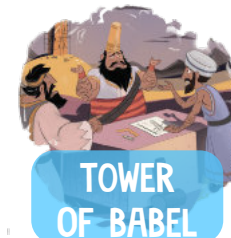
Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

The believers in the early church faced intense persecution, especially after Stephen was killed, and many followers of Jesus were forced to leave Jerusalem. Even though they were scattered, they did not stop sharing the good news about Jesus. This shows that God is a **promise keeper**. He had promised that the gospel would spread to all nations, and even difficult circumstances like persecution became part of how He fulfilled that promise. One man, Philip, brought the message to Samaria, where many people listened, believed, and experienced great joy, proving that God's promises bring life and hope wherever they go.

In today's Bible story, Philip was instructed by an angel of the Lord to go to a desert road, and he obeyed without hesitation. This moment reminds us that God, as a promise keeper, is always working to accomplish His plans. The Holy Spirit led Philip to an Ethiopian official who was reading from the prophet Isaiah but did not understand it.

As Philip explained the Scripture, "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter..." He helped the official understand that these words were about Jesus, the promised Messiah. This is a powerful reminder that God keeps His promises perfectly. What He spoke through Isaiah hundreds of years earlier was fulfilled in Jesus. The Holy Spirit guided Philip's words and also worked in the official's heart, helping him believe and respond in faith. The man was baptized, showing that God's promise of salvation is for all people, not just one nation.

After this encounter, Philip continued sharing the gospel wherever he went. He didn't rely on his own plans; he trusted the Holy Spirit to lead him. In the same way, we can trust that God, our promise keeper, will guide us and use us to share His truth with others. Just as He kept His promise to send a Savior and to spread the good news, He will continue to keep every promise He has made.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Can you think of a time you made a new friend? What did you do together? How did you get to know them? Meeting new friends is really exciting, and it's a great way to show kindness and care. Today, we're going to learn about a man named Philip who met a new friend and helped him understand the Bible. But this wasn't just a random meeting. God planned it! Today we will hear this story that shows us that God is a **promise keeper**.

Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

After Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven, the early church began to grow, but soon faced persecution, especially after Stephen was killed. This caused many believers to scatter from Jerusalem, yet wherever they went, they continued sharing the good news about Jesus. Philip was one of those believers, and he went to Samaria, where many people believed and experienced joy. Today we will hear about a story how, even in a time of hardship, God was actively working to keep His promise by bringing the message of salvation to people everywhere! Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Acts 8. Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Sometimes we wish sharing about Jesus was as easy as someone walking up and asking for help. That's exactly what happened for Philip! The Holy Spirit set up the perfect moment for him to meet the Ethiopian official who was reading the Bible and wanted to understand it. Philip didn't make excuses or worry about how far he had to travel or how awkward it might feel. He obeyed right away, and because of that, the Ethiopian man learned about Jesus and believed. But this story also shows us something amazing about God. He is a promise keeper. Jesus had promised that His good news would spread to the whole world, and God kept that promise by sending Philip to someone from a faraway country. The Ethiopian believed, was baptized immediately, and went home full of joy carrying the message of Jesus with him. Philip was able to explain that God kept His promise to send a Savior, He kept His promise to help His people share the gospel, and He kept His promise to build His church. This story reminds us that when we obey God, we get to be part of the promises He is already keeping!

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: THE HOLY SPIRIT LED PHILIP TO TELL THE ETHIOPIAN MAN ABOUT JESUS.

An angel told Philip to go to a desert road. So Philip went. On the road was a man from Ethiopia. The man had come to worship in Jerusalem, and now he was on his way home. He sat in his chariot, reading aloud the words of the prophet Isaiah.

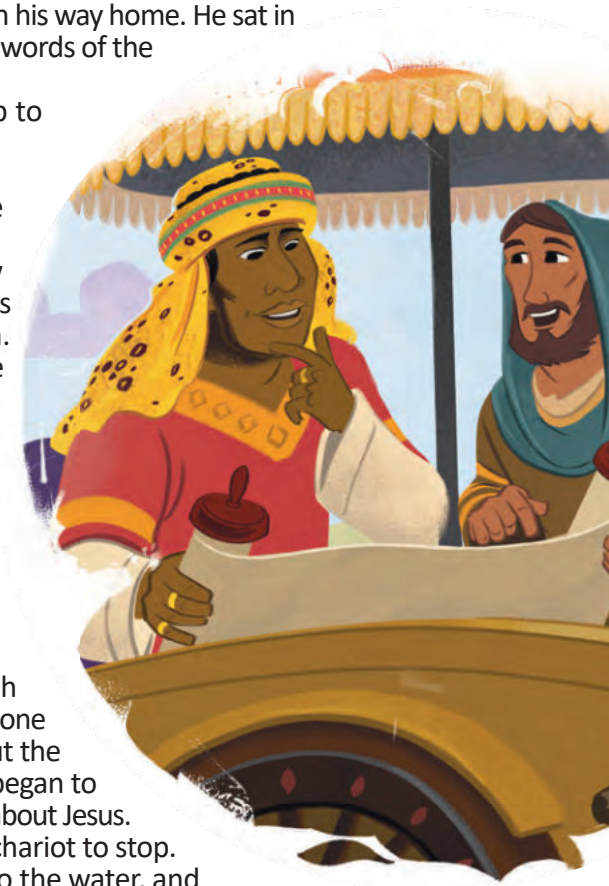
The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the chariot. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked the man.

The official replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" Philip sat with him. The official was reading these words from Isaiah:

He was led like a sheep
to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent
before its shearer,
so He does not open His
mouth. He was treated
unfairly, and His life is
taken away.

The official asked, "Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?" Isaiah was talking about the promised Messiah, so Philip began to tell the man the good news about Jesus.

Then the official told the chariot to stop. He and Philip went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. The official continued home, and he was very happy.



Christ Connection: *The Ethiopian official knew what the Old Testament prophets said, but he did not understand that they spoke about Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the official understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, just like the Old Testament prophets said.*

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Acts. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is a PROMISE KEEPER

2. **Why did Philip travel to the spot where he met the Ethiopian official?** (*The Holy Spirit told him to, Acts 8:26*)

3. **How did the Ethiopian react to the gospel?** (*he believed it and was baptized, Acts 8:36-39*)

4. **How can we share the gospel with others?** *Guide kids to think about the importance of being prepared to speak about God, of studying God's Word and praying for God to give us opportunities to share. Remind them that the Holy Spirit will guide us and give us wisdom to know what to say.*

5. **What should we do if someone rejects the gospel?** *Help the kids think about how to deal with rejection. Remind them that anyone who rejects the gospel is rejecting God, not us. We should be respectful and kind towards everyone, even those who reject the gospel. God doesn't want us to be discouraged by rejection, but encouraged by His power so that we continue sharing.*



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

PROMISE KEEPER

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Follow the Leader

Select one kid to be the leader. She will walk around the room making noises and gestures. The other kids will follow behind her in a single file line mimicking all her actions. Every minute or so, rotate to a new leader.

- Follow the leader is fun, and usually pretty easy to play. We will learn today about a time Philip followed the Holy Spirit's lead. Do you think what he had to do was easy?

Bedsheet Bounce

Select a volunteer to compete against the rest of the group. Give both him and all the other kids a flat bedsheet and a playground ball. Challenge the team and the individual to use the bedsheet to toss and catch the ball. The group will spread out around the perimeter of the sheet and hold it taut, using the sheet as a parachute to toss the ball up and catch it. The individual will be unable to manage the task. After a minute or so, allow all the kids to work together to continue tossing the ball.

- That game was much better with friends to help you; playing alone was much harder. We all need one another. The church is called to do what God has commanded us to do. It's better when we work together!

Funnel Challenge

Form small groups of two or three kids. Give each group an empty water bottle, a bag of dried beans and a plain sheet of paper. Without explaining how, instruct each group to get all the beans in the water bottle as quickly as possible without spilling any on the floor. See how long it takes for them to figure out to roll the paper as a funnel and pour in the beans. If the groups are stuck after a few minutes, give hints on how to use the paper.

- The quickest way to accomplish this challenge was to use the paper creatively. Paper is usually written on, but it can have so many different uses. In a similar way, God can use us in creative ways that we might not expect. From our Bible story today to how was one of Jesus' followers a willing instrument in God's plan to spread the gospel?

Can't Keep Quiet

Label four corners or spaces in your room 1 through 4. Select a volunteer to stand in the middle with his eyes closed. Instruct the other kids to walk around the room, talking to each other in regular voices until you say "Stop." Consider giving a prompt, such as, "Tell others the names of your family members."

Kids should move to the nearest corner. The volunteer in the middle will call out the corner he thinks has the most kids based on the amount of talking they heard before you called "Stop." If he is correct, allow him to choose another kid to stand in the middle. Play again as time allows.

- The more you talked, the easier it was for the volunteer to guess correctly. From our Bible story today to how was one of Jesus' followers a willing instrument in God's plan to spread the gospel?

Make Scrolls

The early church did not have Bibles in the form of books like we do today. They used scrolls to read God's Word. The Ethiopian official had a scroll copy of the writings of Isaiah. We're going to make our own scrolls today to help us remember this story.

Give each kid a strip of paper and markers. Instruct them to choose one of the following to write out:

the key passage, the big picture question, Isaiah 53:7-8

Demonstrate how to tape the ends of the paper to the dowels and roll it up like a scroll. You may choose to use string or ribbon to tie it together.

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

