



# Philip Shares the Gospel with the Ethiopian

*Acts 8:26–40*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will rejoice that the sovereign God has allowed them to hear His Word.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- List some of the significant events that God planned in this passage.
- Explain what Philip told the Ethiopian eunuch about.
- Tell why the Ethiopian went away rejoicing.

## KEY VERSE

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” —*Acts 8:35*

## APPLICATION

- Do the work of an evangelist like Philip.
- Know Scripture so that you can explain the Gospel.
- When you have repented and placed your faith in Christ, be eager to be baptized.
- Trust that every event has been decreed by God.

## NEXT WEEK

Saul Is Converted on the Damascus Road  
*Acts 9:1–31*

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

In Acts 8:1–25, Luke records how the persecution of the church led Philip to preach the Gospel in Judea and Samaria. The Samaritans not only believed in Jesus but also received the Holy Spirit, showing that God had given them full status alongside the Jews in His rapidly growing church. The rest of Acts 8 continues to describe God’s remarkable expansion of His kingdom, this time not to a whole people group but to one individual on a journey home. The short episode reveals how God unveils His sovereign plan and uses His Scripture to bring one man to salvation.

#### God’s Sovereignty in Salvation (Acts 8:26-30)

In Romans 10:14, Paul asks, “How shall they hear without a preacher?” Because God has chosen to use people to proclaim the Gospel, God sent an angel to Philip with directions about where to go after his ministry in the ancient capital of Samaria (Acts 8:26). God’s directions must have seemed strange to Philip. Instead of directing Philip to a particular place, God sent Philip to travel along a desert road which led from Jerusalem to the city of Gaza. The text doesn’t reveal whether God told Philip anything else about his peculiar mission. Philip faithfully obeyed and “arose and went” (8:27).

God had not only sent a preacher along the desert road but also someone who needed to hear the Gospel. A eunuch from the ancient kingdom of Ethiopia (called Cush in the Old Testament and located in modern day Sudan) was returning home after going to Jerusalem to worship. The man was an important official who had charge of the treasury of the Candace, a title (like Caesar or Pharaoh) for the queen of the Ethiopians. Because the man was a eunuch, he was not allowed to proselytize to Judaism (Deuteronomy 23:1) and would never be permitted to enter the temple. The man likely considered himself a worshiper of the God of Israel.

When the Ethiopian approached in his chariot, the Spirit of God told Philip, “Go near and overtake the chariot” (8:29). (The chariot would be large enough for both the eunuch’s driver and his servants). Eager to obey, Philip ran to the chariot. As Philip approached the chariot, he must have been shocked to hear the prophet Isaiah being read by the Ethiopian! The sovereign God not only sent both Philip and Ethiopian along the same desert road, but decreed that the Ethiopian would be reading from His Word just as Philip approached. Philip did not need to be prompted by God again but asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading (8:30). The eunuch naturally responded, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” If Jesus’ disciples on the road to Emmaus needed to have the Scriptures explained to them (Luke 24:2), it was only natural for the man from Ethiopia to need help too.

### **God's Scripture in Salvation (Acts 8:31–40)**

After the eunuch invited Philip to sit and read with him, Philip received another amazing testimony to God's sovereign design for this encounter. The Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah 53:7–8, a prophecy which describes the suffering and humiliation of the Messiah. The prophecy that the Messiah would not open His mouth, "as a lamb before its shearers is silent," was fulfilled during Jesus' trial, recorded in Matthew 26:62–63 and 27:12–14. The prophecy also predicts the murder of Jesus. Philip's jaw must have dropped as he listened to the eunuch read the prophecy about Jesus. God had planned the perfect opportunity for him to preach Christ.

When the Ethiopian asked Philip who Isaiah was talking about, "himself or some other man" (Acts 8:34), Philip "opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him" (8:35). Philip was faithful to make the most of the opportunity God had given Him and explained what God had revealed about His Son Jesus. Just as the apostle had done and just as Stephen had done, Philip used Scripture to reveal the necessity of the death, resurrection and exaltation of God's Messiah.

God worked through His Spirit, His Word, and His preacher to bring the eunuch to saving faith. When in God's sovereignty, the chariot passed by water, the eunuch could not wait to be baptized. He asked Philip, "What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). When a Gentile wanted to proselytize and become a Jew, they would undergo a ritual baptism, but because of his physical blemish this Ethiopian would never have been allowed to become a Jew. Although he had been excluded from becoming a Jew, nothing excluded him from being baptized upon the basis of his faith in Jesus. (The most reliable manuscripts do not have Acts 8:37, although something like the eunuch's confession may have occurred.) Commanding the chariot stop at the water, the eunuch eagerly demonstrated his faith in Christ and was baptized (8:38).

God's sovereign work through His Scripture had been accomplished. After coming out of the water, the Lord miraculously transported Philip away from the eunuch. Philip was found next in Azotus, a city located about 20 miles north of Gaza. Philip continued preaching the Gospel "in all the cities till he came to Caesarea" (8:40). (The next time Philip is mentioned is in Acts 21:8 where he is appropriately called "the evangelist," the only person in Scripture to bear that title). After Philip disappeared, the eunuch "saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39). No more is known of the Ethiopian treasurer.

### **Conclusion**

In a marvelous display of compassion on one soul, God decreed the sending of His preacher, the reading of His Scripture, and the preaching of His Son so that one eunuch could return to Ethiopia rejoicing in his Savior! Although God no longer sends angels to direct men nor transports his servants to other locations, He is still sovereign and still saves through the Scripture. What incredible privilege and responsibility God has given both to the hearer and the preacher of His Word!

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”  
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

What is persecution?

*Persecution is when people are hurt because of who they are or what they believe.*

What happened when the early church was persecuted?

*The gospel spread to other places.*

What did the man named Simon do?

*Simon was what is called a sorcerer or a magician who astonished people with what he did.*

What did Simon think when he saw the apostles truly doing miracles?

*He was jealous of the apostles and wanted that power for himself.*

What did Peter tell Simon?

*He told Simon that he could not buy these gifts with money and that he must repent. Simon was not willing to submit himself to God.*

Who came to the people of Samaria after they were saved?

*The Holy Spirit came to the believers in Samaria after they were saved. This showed that God’s gospel was truly spreading to the ends of the earth.*



### Difficult Concepts

**Sovereignty:** Today’s lesson is an excellent example that God is sovereign. To be sovereign means to be in control of all things. God is continually working to advance His kingdom and bring glory to Himself. One way He does this is by even leading others to salvation in His Son Jesus Christ.

**Baptism:** Those that are to be baptized are only those individuals who are genuine followers of Christ. Baptism is not necessary for salvation; it is only the public demonstration of one’s faith in Christ. It is a symbol of beginning the Christian life. Because of their profession of faith in Christ, they desire to identify themselves with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection. The reason that Christians should participate in baptism is that both Christ and the apostles (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38) commanded them to. To not be baptized after believing in Jesus Christ is a question of obedience before both God and Christ.

**Prophecy:** The passage of Isaiah 53:7–8 was a prophecy of the Messiah that was to come. By prophecy we mean that God had revealed to Isaiah that one would come and offer salvation to His people. This one to come would be the Messiah. Isaiah then wrote a book that contained all that God had told him and he delivered it to the nation of Israel. In this specific passage, Isaiah had even recorded that the Messiah would die at the hands of men. God had chosen to give man a



glimpse of what was to come hundreds of years later in the coming of His Son Jesus Christ. For the Ethiopian to have been reading this very passage provided Philip with a wonderful opportunity to share with him the good news of Christ Jesus.

### **Chariot Races**

Play this game with the students like wheel barrel races. Explain that one student must walk on their hands and the other must hold them by their feet. Give the students a starting and finishing line.

### **Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah**

God gave the nation of Israel many details as to the Messiah that would come. These details can be found in various prophecies in the Old Testament:

#### **Key Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament**

Gen. 3:15 Messiah to reconcile men to God; fully human, born of a woman, He will utterly defeat Satan

22:18 He will be of the family of Abraham

49:10 He will be of the kingly tribe of Judah

Deut. 18:15 He will be a prophet who, like Moses, revealed the word of God

Ps. 2:1–2 He will be tried by Gentile rulers and condemned by His own Jewish people

16:10 Through resurrection, by the Father, Jesus' body will not see corruption

22:1 He will experience the rejection of the Father at His death

22:6–7 He will be mocked at His crucifixion

22:22 Christ will glorify God in His church after His resurrection

40:6–8 Christ delighted in all the Father's will

69:7–12 Christ would be rejected by men

69:21 Christ would drink gall at His crucifixion

89:4 Christ will be the eternal seed of David

89:26–28 Christ will be God's eternal son, His unique first born

110:1 He will ascend to the right hand of the Father, and be coronated

110:4 His priesthood will be eternal, after the manner of Melchizedek

132:11 He will be the lineage of David

Isa. 7:14 Christ will have a virgin birth; He will be called Immanuel

7:15–16 He will grow up in a land dominated by a foreign power

9:1–2 He will minister in Galilee

9:7 He will be of the line of David, but His kingship will be eternal and He will be the Son of God

11:2 He will be anointed with the Holy Spirit

11:4 He will minister perfect justice regarding the poor and the meek

24:16 Christ will offer salvation to the entire world

40:3 He will have a forerunner

42:1 Christ will be the great anointed Servant of Yahweh

42:2 His ministry will be gentle

- 42:6 Christ will be the fulfillment of God's covenant  
49:6 Christ will be a light to the Gentiles  
52:14 He would be disfigured by the abuses He suffered prior to crucifixion  
53:4 Christ will bear all our diseases  
53:5 He will provide atonement for sin  
53:9 He will be buried in a rich man's tomb  
53:10 The Father will prolong Christ's days by resurrecting Him from the dead  
Dan. 9:24 His public ministry to begin in a.d. 26, which would be 483 years after the decree to Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem; 3 1/2 years later (in the middle of the seven year "week") the Messiah would be crucified while atoning for sin as the "Most Holy" One  
Mic. 5:2 Jesus would be born in Bethlehem  
Zech. 9:9 He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey's colt  
11:12 Christ would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver  
12:10 He would be pierced for our transgressions (Isa. 53:5)

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." —Psalm 78:4*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Passage Outline

God's Sovereignty in Salvation (Acts 8:26–30)

God's Scripture in Salvation (Acts 8:31–40)

#### Reading of the Text

Read Acts 8:26–30.

#### Introduction

Have you ever read something but were not able to understand it? Maybe you could read the words but did not understand what they meant together. In today's lesson we get a chance to see God work out everything so that His good news could be shared with others. God told a man named Philip to walk along a road. While walking along the road God told him to go up to a chariot where a man was reading. The man was reading from the book of Isaiah but he could not understand what it meant. God planned everything perfectly. Philip explained to the Ethiopian about God's good news of salvation and the Ethiopian believed and was saved.



### Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** At the beginning of today's lesson, where does God instruct His servant Philip to go?

**Answer:** After Philip had preached the good news to the Samaritans in last week's lesson, God was not finished with His servant Philip. God had a plan to use Philip in yet another place. Because of this plan, Philip was instructed by an angel to travel along a desert road which led from Jerusalem to the city of Gaza. Luke writes that Philip faithfully obeyed and "arose and went" (8:27).

**LOQ:** Who had God planned for Philip to meet on the desert road?

**Answer:** God had not only sent Philip along the desert road but also someone who needed to hear the Gospel. A eunuch from the ancient kingdom of Ethiopia was returning home after going to Jerusalem to worship. This man was an important official to the queen of Ethiopia. Being a eunuch, the man would have never been allowed to become a Jew or enter the temple.

**LOQ:** What was God's next instruction for Philip?

**Answer:** While the eunuch approached in his chariot, the Spirit of God told Philip to go near the man and join him in his chariot. Eager to obey, Philip ran to the chariot.

**LOQ:** What had God planned for the eunuch to be reading as Philip approached his chariot?

**Answer:** When Philip approached the eunuch in his chariot, he found the man reading the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is one of the Old Testament books of the Bible, a book that Philip would have been very familiar with. The sovereign God not only sent both Philip and the eunuch along the same desert road, but he planned for the eunuch would be reading from His Word just as Philip approached.

**LOQ:** What was the specific passage of prophecy that God had planned for the eunuch to be reading?

**Answer:** If this was not amazing enough, God had planned for the eunuch to reading from Isaiah 53:7–8. This specific passage described the suffering and humiliation of the Messiah. This prophecy was speaking all about Jesus Christ, and how He was to be murdered before men.

**LOQ:** How does Philip explain to the eunuch this passage from Isaiah?

**Answer:** God had planned the perfect opportunity to preach Christ to the eunuch. When the Ethiopian asked Philip who Isaiah was talking about, Philip began to explain this passage of Scripture by preaching Jesus to him. Philip was faithful to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian, using this passage in Isaiah to reveal the necessity of the death, resurrection, and exaltation of God's Messiah.

**LOQ:** What did God then accomplish through His Word?

**Answer:** God worked through His Spirit, His Word and His servant Philip to bring the eunuch to saving faith. After Philip preached the Gospel, the eunuch being convicted of sin, submitted to Christ and repented of his sins. God's sovereign work through His Scripture had been accomplished.

**LOQ:** How did the eunuch want to demonstrate his new faith Christ?

**Answer:** By God's sovereignty, the chariot passed by the water, the eunuch could



not wait to be baptized. Now remember, because this Ethiopian was a eunuch meant that he could never become a Jew. Although he had been excluded from becoming a Jew, nothing excluded from being baptized upon the basis of his faith in Jesus. Commanding the chariot to stop at the water, the eunuch eagerly demonstrated his faith in Christ and was baptized.

**LOQ:** What did God miraculously do after the eunuch had been baptized?

**Answer:** After coming out of the water, the Lord miraculously moved Philip away from the eunuch. One moment they were beside each other, and the next moment Philip was gone. Philip was found next in town called Azotus, which was twenty miles away from Gaza. From there Philip continued to preach the gospel to all around him.

**LOQ:** At the end of today's lesson why does the eunuch go away rejoicing?

**Answer:** After Philip disappeared, the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. He had great reason to rejoice as well. The eunuch was now experiencing the indescribable joy of knowing God's Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior of his life.

### **Summary**

After Philip preached to those in Samaria, God still had plans to continue using Philip for His kingdom. God desired to save an Ethiopian eunuch of his sins, and bring him to saving faith in His Son Jesus Christ. To believe in Christ the Ethiopian first needed someone to share the Gospel with him. This is where Philip comes in. God saw that the two would meet on a desert road that led into Jerusalem. Even more amazing is that the Ethiopian would be reading an Old Testament passage regarding the Messiah at the very same moment Philip approached his chariot. God had provided Philip an amazing opportunity to share the gospel with this Ethiopian eunuch. Once Philip had used the Scripture to present the gospel, the eunuch immediately responded by submitting his life to the Lord Jesus, believing in Him, and repenting of his sins. There on the side of the desert road, the Ethiopian was baptized as a demonstration of his new faith in Christ. During this baptism, the Holy Spirit miraculously took Philip from the Ethiopian and placed him in another city. From that day forward the Ethiopian eunuch went away rejoicing in his Savior.

### **Application**

As in today's lesson, God remains completely sovereign. He is in control of every situation which someone receives the opportunity to hear the gospel. We understand this gospel because it is written in God's Word. When spoken and presented to others, God sovereignly uses His Word to convict people of sin and bring them to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. Each of us today should be thankful that God has given us the opportunity to hear the gospel. If one responds to the gospel by believing in Christ and repenting of their sin, he or she should demonstrate their new life in Christ by being baptized. Once obedient in this way, he or she should continue to do that which Philip did, and that is to share the gospel with all men.

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



### Act It Out

Use today's stand alone pictures to make props for today's lesson. Create an overhead of the sheet and project against butcher paper or cardboard. Outline the picture onto the paper and cut it out or decorate it on the wall. Use these enlarged images to make the lesson come alive. Act out today's lesson using these props.

Variation: Create large stand alones and tape them to rulers to create a large puppet set.



### Visual Aids

During the teaching time various items may be used to illustrate parts of the lesson. Some of these objects are: chariot, scroll, money bag, and water.



### God Is Sovereign Checklist

One of the amazing realities revealed in today's lesson is that God is sovereign. This is seen in the salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch. In explaining God's sovereignty, it is necessary to point out all that God had planned to occur in order for the Ethiopian to come to faith in His Son Jesus. To do this, make a large checklist on posterboard in front of the class. This checklist should contain all the various events that God will orchestrate in today's lesson (i.e., Philip meeting the Ethiopian, the Ethiopian reading an Isaiah passage regarding the Messiah, the chariot passing water in the middle of the desert etc.). With this checklist sitting in front of the class, explain to the students that God had planned every one of these events. The teacher will then be able to use this checklist while teaching, checking each of the events as they occur in the lesson. At the end of the lesson, all the events on the list will have been checked off, and God's sovereignty will be clearly seen.



### Signpost Prop

Make a signpost for your class. This week, include signs (pointing opposite directions) for Jerusalem and Gaza, with an extra sign for Azotus, 20 miles north of Gaza. (Next week you can add Damascus; the week after, Caesarea and Joppa.)



### Pick a Scroll

Teacher has a basket full of little "scrolls," papers rolled and tied with ribbon. Let each child pick a scroll. Only one scroll has writing on it, Acts 8:32–33. Whoever pulls that scroll gets to read it. Since the Ethiopian was a treasurer, for fun you could put the scrolls in a treasure box.

## Praise and Worship

*Open Our Eyes*

*As the Deer*

*Change My Heart, O God*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.” —Psalm 78:7*

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### “Tracing Scroll”

Materials: copies of “Tracing Scroll” craft page, scissors, crayons, pencils

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page and have him or her cut out the verse and then trace over the letters with a crayon. Then help him or her tear the edges of the paper so that it the paper looks worn. Crumple the paper into a ball and then straighten it out again. Use pencils to roll the ends, making the paper look like a scroll.



### Philip and the Ethiopian Stand Alone Scenes

Materials: copies of the stand-alone images, construction paper, crayons, glue, background scenes

Directions: Have students either recreate the scene of Philip sharing the Gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch or the scene of Philip baptizing the Eunuch. Cut a slit in the waves to insert Philip and the Ethiopian.



### Gaza Board Game

Materials: “On the Road to Gaza” craft pages, scissors, glue, decorations of your choice

Directions: Give each child a board game to decorate and a Philip and Ethiopian playing piece. Fold the playing pieces on the dotted line and glue at the top to make them stand. Students can roll a die to see how many spaces they should move.



### “Philip Shares the Gospel”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.

### Coloring Pages

Give each child a copy of the coloring sheet at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



### MEMORY VERSE

*“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” —Acts 8:35*



# Tracing Scroll

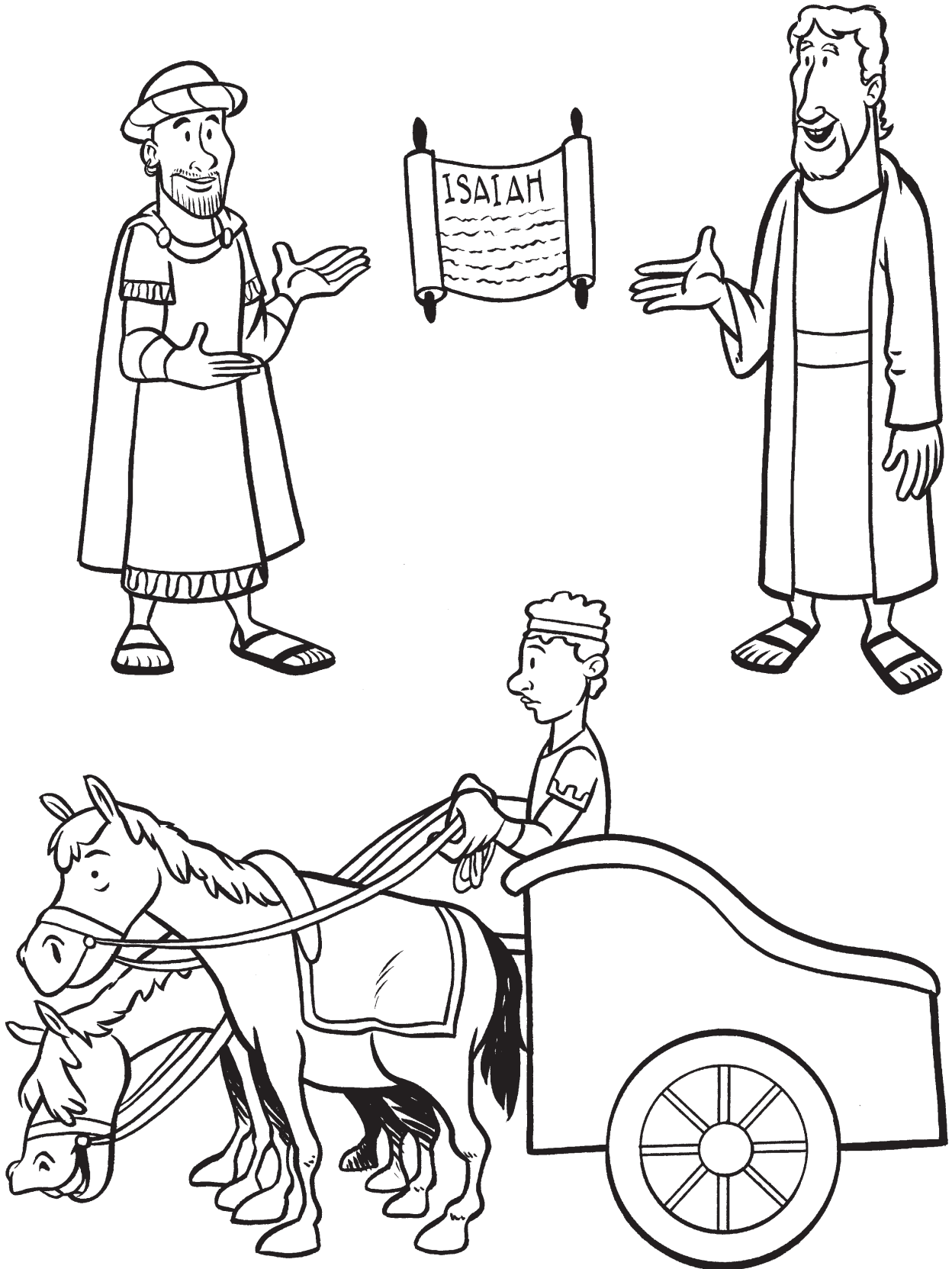
Then Philip

opened his mouth, and  
beginning at this Scripture,  
preached Jesus to him.

— Acts 8:35



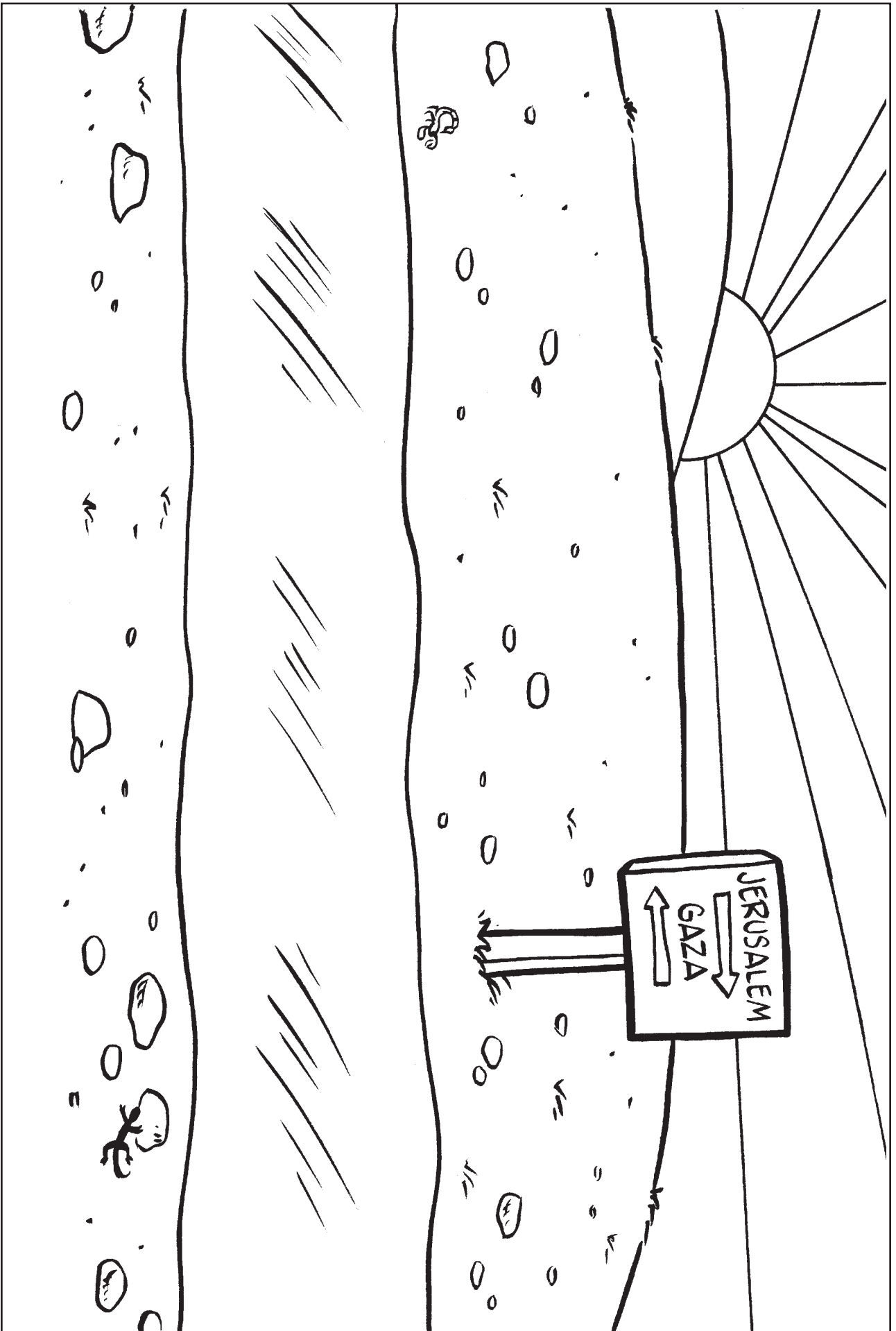
# Stand-alones





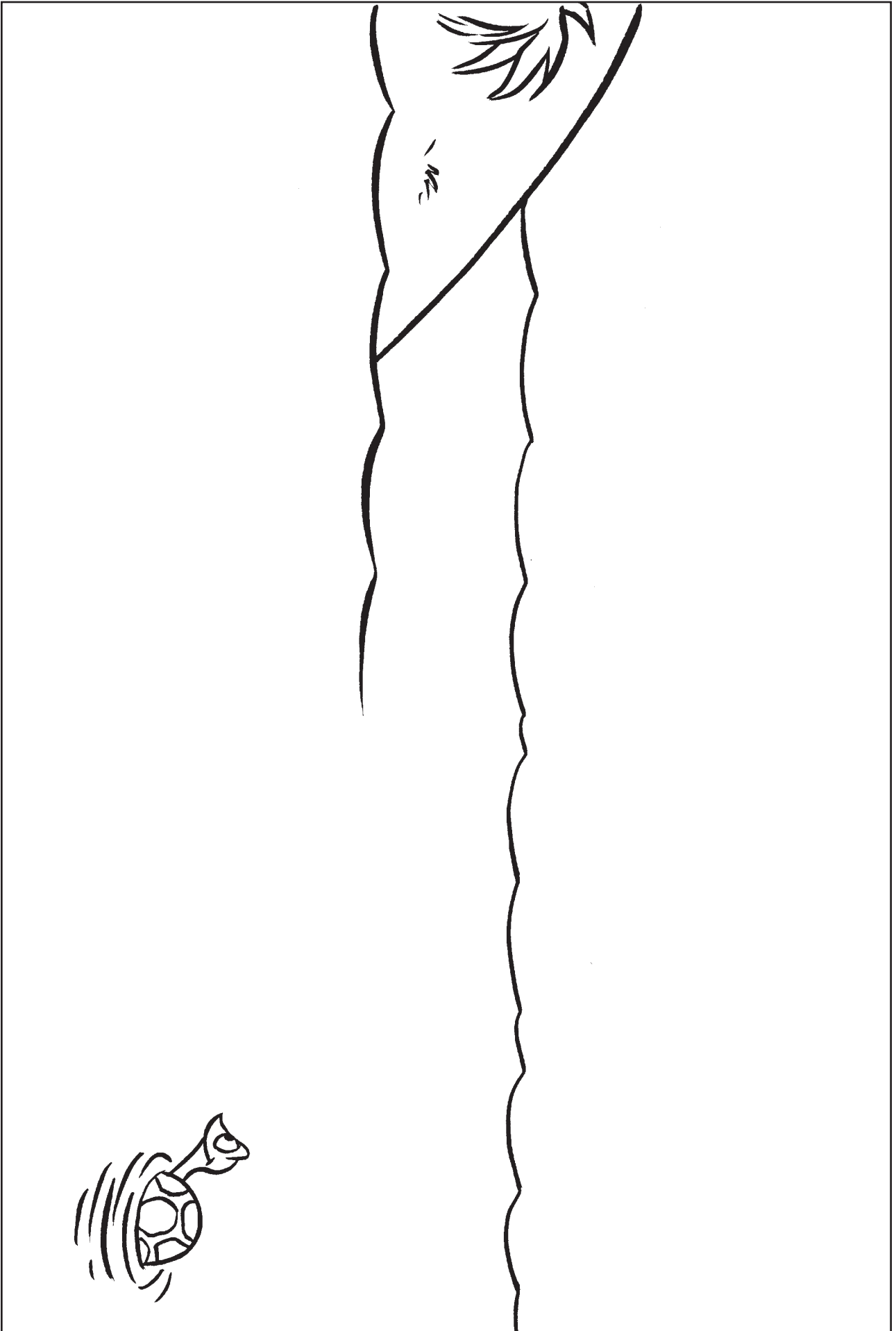


# Road to Gaza





# Baptism Scene





<b>START</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Angel talks to Philip.			Philip leaves for Gaza. Move ahead one space.			

14	13	12	11	10	9	8
			Ethiopian reads from Isaiah.			

# On the Road to Gaza


God planned many events that happened to Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26–40. Move the Ethiopian and Philip along the path to review these events.

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Philip runs to the chariot. Move ahead one space.		Ethiopian asks Philip to teach him.					


Ethiopian rejoices! Philip sent to Azotus.	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	
<b>END</b>				Philip baptizes the Ethiopian.		Found water by the road. Move ahead two spaces.		



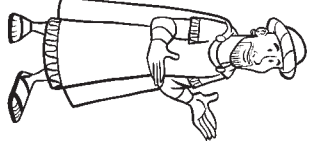
# On the Road to Gaza Game Pieces



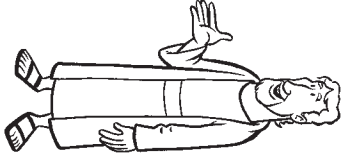
Ethiopian



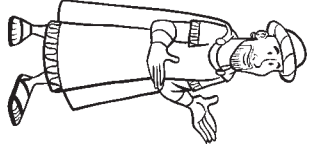
Philip



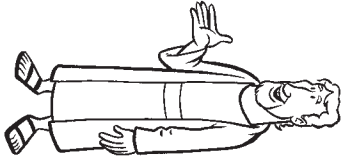
Ethiopian



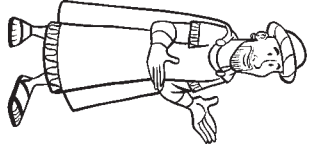
Philip



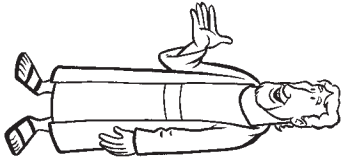
Ethiopian



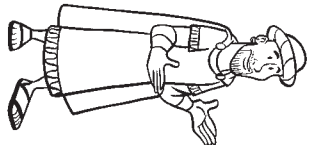
Philip




Ethiopian




Philip




Ethiopian



Philip



Ethiopian



Philip





# Philip *shares* the Gospel



**Acts 8:26-40**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

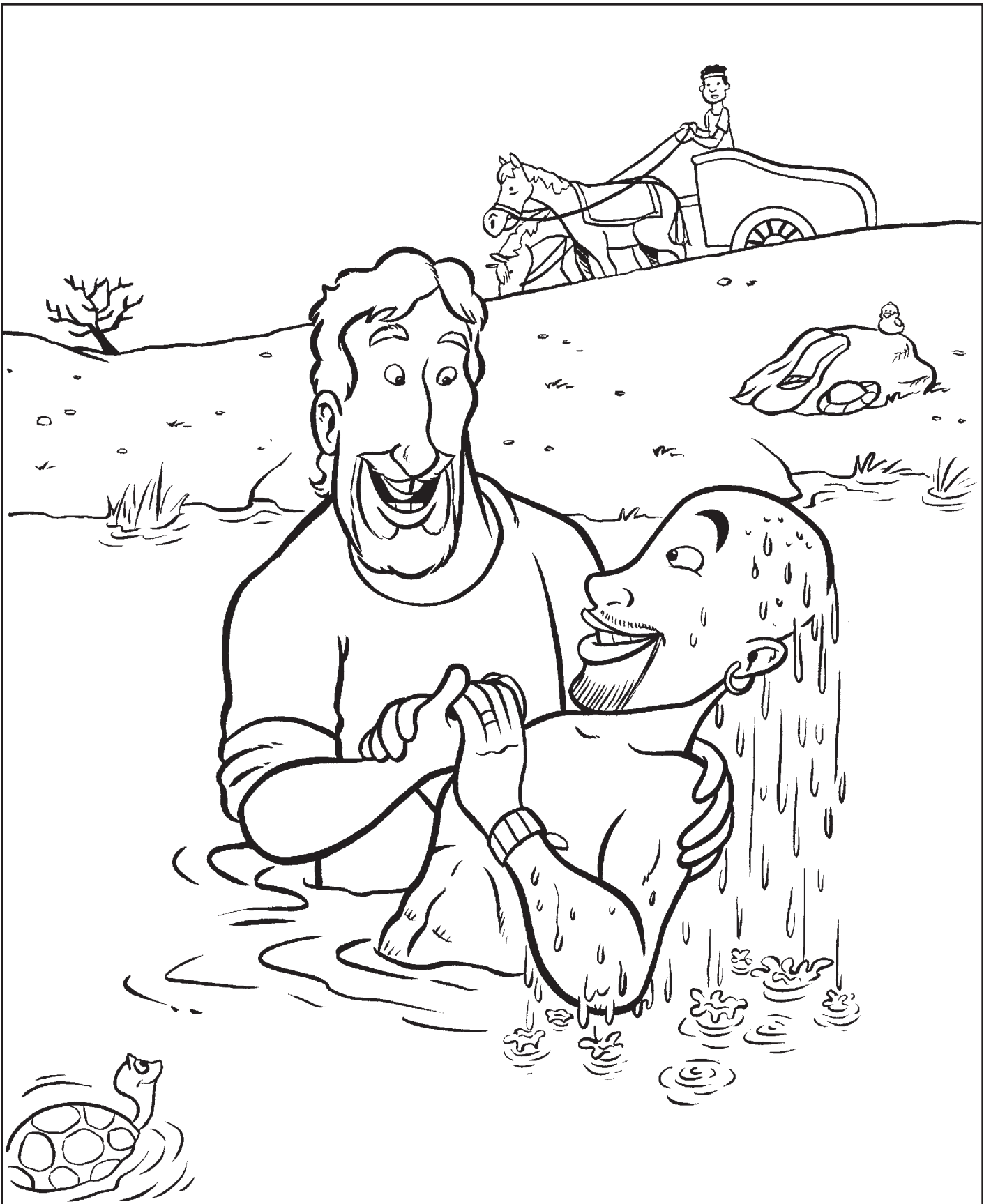
1. An angel of the Lord told Philip to go south on the road leading to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was the Ethiopian eunuch reading in his chariot? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who told Philip to overtake the chariot? \_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: The eunuch asked Philip to explain the Scripture to him. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Acts 8:35 tell us that Philip preached \_\_\_\_\_ to the eunuch.
6. When the eunuch saw water he wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_.
7. After baptizing the eunuch, Philip was \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit of the Lord.
8. What did Philip do on his way to Caesarea? \_\_\_\_\_





**"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at the Scripture, preached Jesus to him." —Acts 8:35**





**“So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, and he baptized him.”**

**—Acts 8:9**

