



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

## **You Will Be My Witnesses:**

**Running the Race**

## **Lesson 19**



# Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

## Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3  
Romans 10:8-17  
1 Corinthians 9:24-2  
Colossians 2:6-13  
Isaiah 53:7-8

## Memory Verse

In a race  
all the runners run. But  
only one gets the prize.  
You know that, don't you?  
So run in a way that will  
get you the prize.  
1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIRV)

## Lesson Goals

Understand that being  
obedient to God is  
important

Understand the need to  
be receptive to the call of  
the Holy Spirit in our lives

Understand that God may  
call us to leave something  
good to continue His work  
somewhere else

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Let's say you are running races and training and doing very well at a certain distance, say the 400m. What would you think if your coach asked you to switch to a sprint or a marathon? What would you do? Let's see what we can learn from Philip.

What do you remember about Philip from our last lesson? Philip was one of the believers who had been in Jerusalem. He left after Stephen's death, when the church began to be persecuted and when Saul began dragging believers from their homes to throw them into jail. Philip went to a village in Samaria. He did what God had said the believers would do; he was a witness of the things Jesus had said and done. Many people believed, even the evil magician, Simon.

And then, an angel of the Lord told Philip to leave the village in Samaria and head south; "go south to the desert road. It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (Acts 8:26 NIRV) Things were going well for Philip, though. Many people were believing in God. But Philip obeyed God and headed south.

On the way, he met an Ethiopian official who was in charge of all of the wealth of Candace, queen of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian was traveling in a chariot and he was reading from the book of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go near the chariot and stay there. "So Philip ran up to the chariot." (Acts 8:30 NIRV)

He heard the man reading from the book of Isaiah and asked him if he understood what he was reading. "How can I?" he said. 'I need someone to explain it to me.' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him." (Acts 8:31 NIRV) The Ethiopian had been reading Isaiah 53 where it says, "He was led away like a sheep to be killed. Lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, He didn't open his mouth. He was arrested and sentenced to death. Then He was taken away. He was cut off from this life. He was punished for the sins of my people." (Isaiah 53:7-8 NIRV)

## Application

How are you running the race? Or are you still sitting in the bleachers? The choice is yours. Join us in this race of faith that Jesus began and finished.

And if the Holy Spirit prompts you to try something new or go somewhere you have never been, be ready to obey. Run the race to win, don't just run to say you ran.

Maybe you are wondering how you will know when the Spirit speaks to you. You will know by being faithful to read and study your Bible, by praying, by being faithful to Bible Study, and by listening to other believers who have been running the race for a long time and have run well.

Join the adventure and see what God will choose to do through you!

The Ethiopian official wanted to know who Isaiah was talking about. "Is he talking about himself or someone else?" he asked. (Acts 8:34 NIV) Then Philip started where the official was, the passage he had just read in Isaiah, and as they traveled, Philip told him about the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Ethiopian believed this good news about Jesus. When they came near some water, the official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" He gave orders to stop the chariot." (Acts 8:36-38 NIV) Then Philip and the Ethiopian official went down to the water. Philip baptized the official, and when they were coming up out of the water, God's Spirit quickly took Philip away. The Ethiopian official never saw Philip again, but he went away very happy.

Philip showed up in the town of Azotus and from there traveled all over the place. He preached the good news of Jesus from town to town, all the way to Caesarea. Philip ran the race well, even leaving a place where many good things were happening because God had more for him. Because Philip was obedient, he was able to lead an Ethiopian official to the Lord and preach the good news from town to town.

## Review

1. What happened in the town of Samaria as Philip shared the good news? (People believed, even Simon, the evil magician.)
2. What happened after that? (God told Philip to go south.)
3. Did Philip obey? (Yes.)
4. What happened when Philip obeyed? (He met an Ethiopian official who wanted to understand the prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah.)
5. What happened when Philip explained? (The official believed and was baptized.)

Next Week  
Saul's Conversion  
Acts 9:1-31

# Preschool Lesson

What do you remember about Philip from our last lesson? He was one of the believers who had been in Jerusalem. He left after Stephen's death and went to a village in Samaria. He told the people of that village about Jesus. Many people believed, even the evil magician, Simon.

And then, an angel told Philip to leave the village in Samaria and head south. Philip obeyed God and headed south. On the way, he met an important man from the country of Ethiopia. He was in charge of all of the wealth of Candace, queen of Ethiopia. He was traveling in a chariot and he was reading from the book of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go near the chariot and stay there. "So Philip ran up to the chariot." (Acts 8:30 NIV)

He heard the man reading from the book of Isaiah and asked him if he understood what he was reading. "How can I?" he said. 'I need someone to explain it to me.' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him." (Acts 8:31 NIV) Then Philip started where the official was, the passage he had just read in Isaiah, and as they traveled, Philip told him about the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Ethiopian believed this good news about Jesus, so when they came near some water, the official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" He gave orders to stop the chariot." (Acts 8:36-38 NIV) Then Philip and the Ethiopian official went down to the water. Philip baptized the official, and when they were coming up out of the water, God's Spirit quickly took Philip away. The Ethiopian official never saw Philip again, but he went away very happy.

Philip showed up in the town of Azotus and from there traveled all over the place. He preached the good news of Jesus from town to town, all the way to Caesarea.

Because Philip was obedient, he was able to lead an Ethiopian official to the Lord and preach the good news from town to town. Will you obey God like Philip did?

# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Make medals with ribbon and gold poster board. Print the verse on the medals. Encourage your students to run the race of faith to win it!

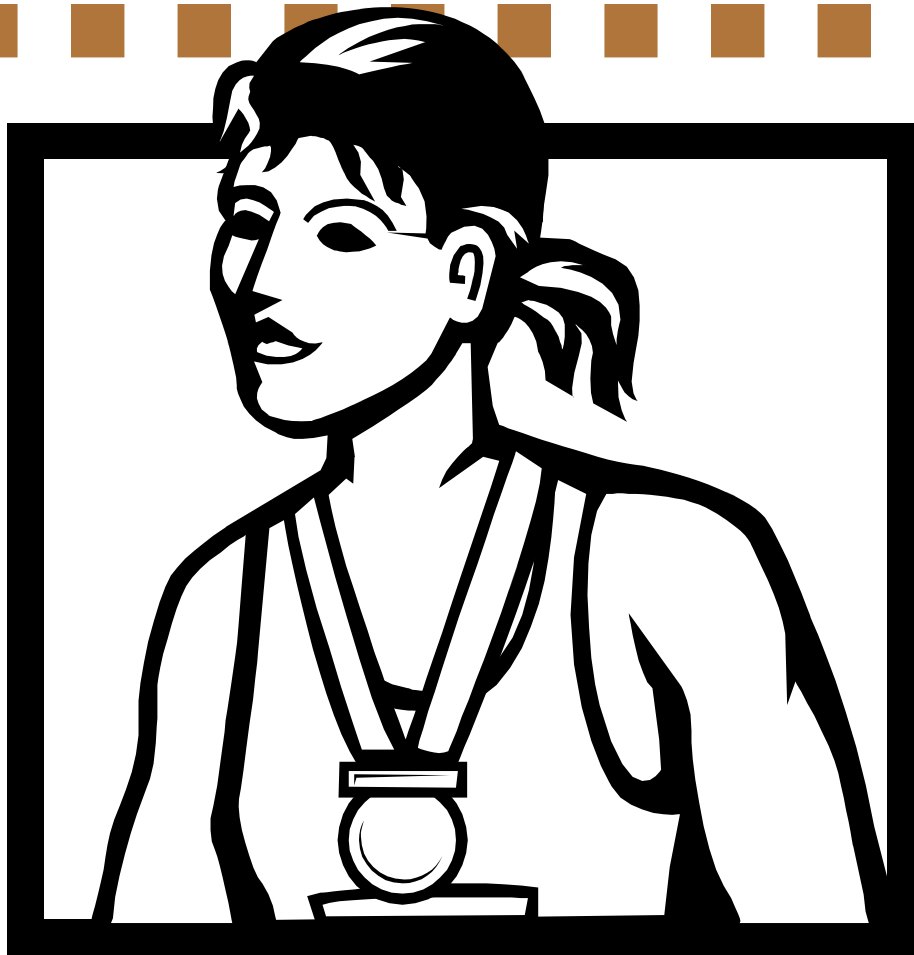
Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” “Footsteps of Jesus,” “Let Others See Jesus in You,” “Living for Jesus,” Take My Life, Lead Me Lord,” “I Will Run the Race,” and “The Mission.”

Dress up and act out the story. Use a large, cardboard box for the chariot and a blue tarp for the water.

Provide an atlas, a globe, or maps. Encourage you students to find Jerusalem, then Samaria, Gaza, and Ethiopia.

Run Chariot Races. This race can be run just like Wheelbarrow Races where one student holds the legs of another student whose hands support them on the ground.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, print the verses on a long strip of paper to be used as a finish line. Work on the verse. Run races and stretch the strip across the finish line to be broken when crossed.



In a race all the runners run.

But only one gets the prize.

You know that, don't you?

So run in a way  
that will get you the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24

# Racing Riddles

Practice your memory verse. All the runners in a race run. Only one wins, though.  
 What is our encouragement from 1 Corinthians 9:24?  
 Use the key below to fill in the blanks.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \* Δ ? 🗝️ ☆ ψ ☆ ● 💡 ● ©

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 ^ @ ● ^ 💡 ψ 😊 😊 Ω Ϛ ^ © Δ 🗝️

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 ^ @ Ϛ ÷ ? ψ Σ Ϛ

## KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
●	⚡	□	\$	Ϛ	†	Ω	@	ψ	⊖	¶	😊	!	☆	Δ	÷	Φ	?	*	^	🗝️	#	💡	&	©	Σ

# Racing Riddles

Practice your memory verse. All the runners in a race run. Only one wins, though.  
 What is our encouragement from 1 Corinthians 9:24?  
 Use the key below to fill in the blanks.

S o r u n i n a w a y

\* Δ ? 🗝️ ☆ ψ ☆ ● 💡 ● ©

t h a t w i l l g e t y o u

^ @ ● ^ 💡 ψ 😊 😊 Ω μ ^ © Δ 🗝️

t h e p r i z e .

^ @ μ ÷ ? ψ Σ μ

## KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
●	✚	□	\$	μ	†	Ω	@	ψ	Θ	¶	😊	!	☆	Δ	÷	Φ	?	*	^	🗝️	#	💡	&	©	Σ



# Word Search

e b n o l a n n o m q u e e  
e m o t t i n i a l p x e w  
t b a p t i z e f g t c e p  
h p r o p h e t i s a i a h  
i t l w e d o g h d k e r i  
o o r a l i i h n e k v a l  
p i t a i r m a n s e e d i  
i r a t e c c t o e n i h p  
a a t e v n i e c r a l t e  
p h n e e g r f n t w e u h  
e c c e l e s c f r a b o c  
t e u e i l e b e o y r s e  
n q y a w a n e k a t s o h  
a s t s e d p r e d c h a r

Philip

Ethiopia

official

Queen Candace

chariot

prophet Isaiah

south

desert road

believe

baptize

explain it to me

taken away

# Word Search

e b n o l a n n o m q u e e  
e m o t t i n i a l p x e w  
t b a p t i z e f g t c e p  
h p r o p h e t i s a i a h  
i t l w e d o g h d k e r i  
o o r a l i i h n e k v a l  
p i t a i r m a n s e e d i  
i r a t e c c t o e n i h p  
a a t e v n i e c r a l t e  
p h n e e g r f n t w e u h  
e c c e l e s c f r a b o c  
t e u e i l e b e o y r s e  
n q y a w a n e k a t s o h  
a s t s e d p r e d c h a r

Philip

Ethiopia

official

Queen Candace

chariot

prophet Isaiah

south

desert road

believe

baptize

explain it to me

taken away