

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

46

PHILIP-A FAITHFUL WITNESS

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



46

PHILIP-A FAITHFUL WITNESS

Memory Verse:

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. (Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Philip was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Philip to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Acts 8:1-40



46

PHILIP-A FAITHFUL WITNESS

Acts 8:1-40

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Philip

His Heroic Feat: Faithfully Shares the Good News

Faithfully sharing the Good News may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We are going to take a look this week at the life of one of Jesus' disciples, Philip. He was from the town of Bethsaida on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee. Bethsaida was also the hometown of Peter and Andrew. Philip lived in Jerusalem because it is where the disciples stayed as they waited for God to send the Holy Spirit. It is also where the disciples stayed once the persecution of the church began.

Philip went from Jerusalem to the city of Samaria. He went to tell people the Good News that God sent His one and only Son who suffered our punishment so that we can be with Him forever. The people in Samaria listened carefully. You see, they thought they were following God because they had been following a man named Simon. But Simon practiced magic. Simon also bragged about himself; he called himself a great man. Everybody paid attention to Simon. They thought he had the power of God. "But when Philip told them the Good News about the kingdom of God and the power of Jesus Christ, men and women believed Philip and were baptized. Simon himself believed." (Acts 8:12-13a NCV)

Then an unusual thing happened. As Philip was sharing the Good News and as people were being saved, an angel of the Lord visited Philip. The angel of the Lord told Philip to, "Get ready and go south to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road." (Acts 8:26 NCV) Philip didn't know why God was asking him to leave, all he knew was that things were going well in Samaria, but Philip obeyed. He got ready and went.

On the desert road Philip saw a man from the country of Ethiopia. He had been to Jerusalem to worship, but was headed back to Ethiopia. "He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians; he was responsible for taking care of all her money." (Acts 8:27 NCV) As he was traveling home in his chariot he was reading from the book of Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up to the chariot. When he did, "he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'" (Acts 8:30 NCV) The Ethiopian official told Philip that he couldn't understand. He needed someone to explain the passage and he invited Philip into his chariot. The Ethiopian had been reading from Isaiah 53:7-8.

It says, "He was like a sheep being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a lamb is quiet while its wool is being cut; He never opened His mouth. He was shamed and was treated unfairly. He died without children to continue His family. His life on earth had ended." (Acts 8:32-33 NCV)

The official wanted to know who the passage was talking about, so "starting with the same Scripture, [Philip] told the man the Good News about Jesus." (Acts 8:35 NCV)

They passed some water as they were traveling and the official wanted to be baptized. "Philip answered, 'If you believe with all your heart, you can.' The officer said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'" (Acts 8:37 NCV also see NASB) They stopped the chariot and Philip baptized the Ethiopian. "When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away." (Acts 8:39 NASB) The official never saw Philip again, but he went on his way full of joy.

Philip appeared in the city of Azotus. He continued faithfully sharing the Good News from there to Caesarea.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Philip faithfully shared the Good News. Philip shared about Jesus in places he never expected to go. He was able to do that because he obeyed God.

Our memory verse encourages us: "So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." (Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT) How can you know what God wants you to do? In 2 Peter 3, Peter very clearly tells us that Jesus hasn't returned because God is being patient. He doesn't want anyone to die without choosing to follow Him. God wants us to live pure and holy lives so that we can tell others about Him the way Philip did.



NEXT WEEK
Timothy

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Faithfully sharing the Good News may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We are going to take a look this week at the life of one of Jesus' disciples, Philip. One day an angel of the Lord visited Philip. The angel of the Lord told Philip to, "Get ready and go south to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road." (Acts 8:26 NCV) Philip obeyed. He got ready and went.

On the desert road Philip saw a man from the country of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is in Africa. The man had been to Jerusalem to worship, but was headed back to Ethiopia. "He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians; he was responsible for taking care of all her money." (Acts 8:27 NCV) As he was traveling home in his chariot he was reading from the book of Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up to the chariot. Philip asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'" (Acts 8:30 NCV) The Ethiopian official told Philip that he couldn't understand. He needed someone to explain the passage and he invited Philip into his chariot. The official wanted to know who the passage was talking about, so "starting with the same Scripture, [Philip] told the man the Good News about Jesus." (Acts 8:35 NCV)

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print a word or phrase from the memory verse on separate index cards (or similar sized pieces of paper). Be sure to include the reference. Scramble the memory verse and encourage your students as they order it.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "The Mission," "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," "I Will," "Mighty to Save," "I Love to Tell the Story," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the lesson. Use a large paper box or plastic container for the chariot.
- Make edible chariots with cookies, pretzels, crackers, and peanut butter or marshmallow cream.
- Provide a map that includes Philip's hometown of Bethsaida, Jerusalem, Gaza, Azotus and Caesarea. Use it as you recount the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read Acts 8:12, 26. Talk about Philip's call to go to the desert road. Without knowing the results, does the redirection make sense? (No.) Now read and discuss Proverbs 3:5-6.
- **For more training:** Read 2 Peter 3:1-15a. Discuss this in light of the lesson and memory verse.

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Ephesians 5:15-17

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
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HERO IN TRAINING

Philip-A Faithful Witness

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Scripture:

Acts 8:1-40

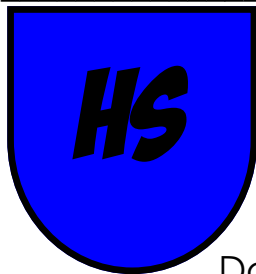
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Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess? _____

Do you have the power? _____

Review the lesson and the memory verse. Discuss the memory verse in light of the lesson. Why are our actions important? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Trace the word below to find out what Philip was faithful to share.

GOOD

NEWS

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.
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Ephesians 5:15-17

WORD

SEARCH!

S N L H J P T S O M F H B
N E G O D A C C E P T S E
O H E L P I L I H P R L L
L T P Y H A E R A S E A I
D S U S E H T E I U E M E
O S P P O J E G A I V I V
T A I I G A R P S L A N E
H M A N Y B E L I E V E D
T A L I S C R I G N U N E
U R A T E V E S N R B A F
O I E N A I P O I H T E L
S A E S R U O I D C N L K
O E E H T A H L A D R C W
G T D A O R T R E S E D N
B H O L Y S P I R I T U G

- Philip
- Holy Spirit
- Ethiopian
- Samaria
- go south
- reading Isaiah
- many believed
- desert road
- believed

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
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SEARCH!

Answer Page

S	N	L	H	J	P	T	S	O	M	F	H	B
N	E	G	O	D	A	C	C	E	P	T	S	E
O	H	E	L	P	I	L	I	H	P	R	L	L
L	T	P	Y	H	A	E	R	A	S	E	A	I
D	S	U	S	E	H	T	E	I	U	E	M	E
O	S	P	P	O	J	E	G	A	I	V	I	V
T	A	I	I	G	A	R	P	S	L	A	N	E
H	M	A	N	Y	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	D
T	A	L	I	S	C	R	I	G	N	U	N	E
U	R	A	T	E	V	E	S	N	R	B	A	F
O	I	E	N	A	I	P	O	I	H	T	E	L
S	A	E	S	R	U	O	I	D	C	N	L	K
O	E	E	H	T	A	H	L	A	D	R	C	W
G	T	D	A	O	R	T	R	E	S	E	D	N
B	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	G

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