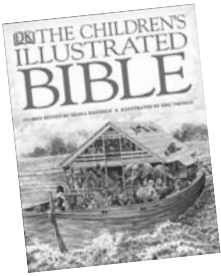


Fifth Sunday of Easter



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Then an angel said to Philip, "Get up and travel the wilderness road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." So Philip got up and went. An Ethiopian court official in charge of the queen's treasury had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. He was seated in his chariot reading scriptures. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to his chariot, so Philip ran up and heard the Ethiopian reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He invited Philip to ride with him in the chariot. Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; the Ethiopian said, "Look, here is water! What would stop me from getting baptized right there?" The chariot stopped, and both of them went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the Ethiopian saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself in another town, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns.

—Acts 8:26–40 adapted

Philip Is a Guide

Since this story is not in *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, retell it as a drama to help kids learn it.

Place two chairs side by side to represent the chariot. Kids may take the roles of Philip, the Ethiopian, an angel, the Holy Spirit, and horses (optional). Have the kids pantomime the story as it is narrated. The horses may jog together in place as they go down the road. When the drama is done, discuss: How did Philip help the Ethiopian? How did it make the Ethiopian feel when he found Christ? Is there someone who has guided you to Jesus just as Philip did for the Ethiopian? Jesus wants us to guide others. How can we do that?

Have each kid take a turn in the "chariot." Identify someone they would like to share the good news with (a neighbor, schoolmate, relative), and share what they would say to that person about Jesus. Discuss what our "chariots" are today (car, bike, rollerblades, train). Have kids draw a picture of themselves sharing the good news with someone in their "chariots." Challenge them to share the good news this week.

Jesus Is Our Guide

Give kids paper and pencils, and challenge them to draw a perfectly straight line. (Draw a line to show them it's difficult for you, too.) Invite them to show one another how they did. Now give each one a ruler to check the straightness of their line. Discuss: Making the right decisions is like trying to draw a straight line. We try really hard, but if we have a guide like this ruler, we can draw a straight line much easier. Demonstrate drawing a straight line with the ruler to your freehand line. Jesus is like this ruler—he guides us to stay on "track" with our lives. When we use Jesus as our guide, we come closer to the mark of who God wants us to be. Challenge kids to now draw straight lines with the rulers, and write "Jesus guides us" on them. They can decorate the rulers with markers and stickers.

Share the Scriptures

Make photocopies of a page of scripture from the Bible. Combine kids into teams of two, and encourage them to share the scripture with others in a unique way! Each team first writes the team members' names on the scripture sheet. Each team sits side by side on the floor with one leg together. The second leg is bent so that each kid's outside foot is together, sole to sole (see the drawing). The scripture paper is put in between the feet (kids can do this with or without shoes), and kids must maneuver from one side of the room to the other and share (exchange) their scripture with someone from another team. These can be checked by seeing whose names are on the scripture paper when all teams are done. Discuss: How was this game like the story of Philip and the Ethiopian? How was it to share the "scripture" with a partner? Did your partner help guide you when you moved together?





Behold, you are little children, and you cannot bear all things now; you must grow in grace and in the knowledge of truth. Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world. You were given to my safekeeping by God. And no one that God gave to me will be lost.

—*Doctrine and Covenants 50:8d–e adapted*

Fill in the blanks in the following scripture using the scripture above.

Behold, you are little children, and you cannot bear all things now; you must grow in grace and in the knowledge of truth.

_____, _____, _____, for _____

_____, and I have overcome the world. You were given to my safekeeping by God. And no one that God gave to me will be lost.

—*Doctrine and Covenants 50:8d–e adapted*