

Children's Church at Home 2 May 2021

Acts 8:26-40

Craft: card, paper, paper fasteners, pens, scissors, something to make holes with.

First: who do you go to if ... you've got toothache? Need help with spelling a word? Don't understand a bit in the Bible?

The Story: [Acts 8:26-40 ERV - Philip Teaches a Man From Ethiopia - An - Bible Gateway](#)

One day a man was on his way home from Jerusalem. He was a very important person: he looked after all the money for Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia. He'd had a fine old time in Jerusalem! He had been on a pilgrimage, that is, a journey to a special religious place. (So we know that he already believed in God) and now he was riding home in his chariot and reading as he went along. He had the book of Isaiah, and was reading a particular bit which said,

⁷ He was treated badly, but he never protested. He said nothing, like a lamb being led away to be killed. He was like a sheep that makes no sound as it is being sheared. He never opened his mouth to defend himself. ⁸ He was taken away by force and judged unfairly. The people of his time did not even notice that he was killed. But he was put to death for the sins of his people. (Isaiah 53:7-8)

Just at that moment, Phillip came along. An angel had told him to go to that precise road! Wow! Was that a coincidence or what? (Well, I think it's what we call a God Incidence!) God knew that man well and wanted him to find out about Jesus. 'Do you understand what you're reading?' Phillip asked him. 'How can I without some help?' Said the man. Is it about Isaiah himself or someone else?' 'Funny you should ask that,' replied Phillip, 'let me tell you about my friend Jesus.' And so he explained about who Jesus was and what had happened at Easter.

How do you think the man felt? He was excited enough about his trip to Jerusalem, and now here was the news that would change his life!

As he gazed out of the chariot, what did he see? A stream! (or maybe a pond, or a lake).

'Hey! Can I get baptized? Here and now?' He shouted! 'Let's do it,' said Phillip. 'Stop!' yelled the man to his driver. And they jumped down from the chariot and leapt into the water. Phillip baptized the man just like John the Baptist had baptized Jesus, pushing him down under the water and then pulling him up out into the air again, born again, a Christian now. The man was overjoyed! And he went on home, happy as could be.

Video: https://youtu.be/TGEqn7_teFo

Quiz: who is this story about? Where does it take place? What was the man reading? How does Phillip help him? What do they see? What do they decide to do?

Think: Phillip arrived just at the right time to explain that bit of the Bible to the man from Ethiopia. How wonderful is that? God knew that he was interested and sent Phillip, didn't he? The man didn't see Phillip again after this, but it is said that he was the founder of the Christian Church in Ethiopia. One conversation changed his life, and the lives of many other people too.

God cares about each and every one of us, and he's at work in each person. Sometimes he asks us to help.

How would you explain Jesus to someone who is interested, do you think? Is there someone you know who might be wondering about Jesus now this minute? Time to pray and ask God for advice. You might get an angel, or it might be something someone says which makes you think ...

And if we have questions, if we are the ones who are wondering, like that man from Ethiopia, let's be ready to ask for help.

Craft: a collage with some paper engineering.

Activity: sink or swim. Next time you are out for a walk, collect a variety of natural objects. A stone, a feather, a leaf, for instance. When you get home, take a bowl of water outside. Now sort your objects into things which float and things which sink. Then test your theory. Push the floaters down to check. Were you right? Imagine that the floaters are like Christians, baptised and born again, pushed down and bobbing back up again!

Prayer: Oh God, I'd really like to be one of those people who can explain things. Help me to know who and when and where I can help. **AND / OR** I am so full of questions, Jesus, who can help me to understand? Show me who to ask and which way to go. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.