

Philip and the Ethiopian Official

Storyteller: *Hold out the road in your hands:* After Jesus rose from the dead and had gone back up into heaven, and the disciples received the Holy Spirit, an angel said to the apostle Philip, “Go South along the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Spread the road out in front of you from right to left. So Philip went. *Place Philip in a stand near the far right edge of the road, heading to your left. Move him a few paces along the road to make room for the chariot to come up behind him.*

Acts 8:26-40C Philip and an Ethiopian Official

The Lord’s angel said to Philip, “Go south along the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So Philip left.

An important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. He was the chief treasurer for Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The official answered, “How can I understand unless someone helps me?” He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.

The man was reading the passage that said,

“He was led like a sheep
on its way to be killed.
He was silent as a lamb
whose wool
is being cut off,
and he did not say
a word.

He was treated like a nobody
and did not receive
a fair trial.
How can he have children,
if his life
is snatched away?”

The official said to Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or

An important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. *Set down the chariot, horse and official on the road, and move it forward until it is a few inches past Philip, . Philip may have to step off the road to let it pass.*

The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the prophecy of Isaiah. *Move Philip quickly up to the chariot.* Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The official answered, “How can I understand unless someone helps me?” He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him. *Take Philip out of the stand and sit him next to the official in the chariot.*

The man was reading the passage that said ... *Take the scroll out of the official's hands and unroll it and show it to the children. You can read the verses right from the scroll:*

“He was led like a sheep on its way to be killed.
He was silent as a lamb whose wool is being cut off,
and he did not say a word.
He was treated like a nobody and did not receive a fair trial.
How can he have children,
if his life is snatched away?”

Story Materials

- ☐ Dolls:
 - Ethiopian official
 - Phillip
- ☐ Chariot
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Scroll
- ☐ Palm Tree
- ☐ Blue felt “pool”
- ☐ Grey felt “road”

Put the horse into the chariot-harness, the scroll in the official's hands, and the official into the chariot ahead of time

about someone else?" So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. The official said, "Look! Here is some water. Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

After they had come out of the water, the Lord's Spirit took Philip away. The official never saw him again, but he was very happy as he went on his way.

Philip later appeared in Azotus. He went from town to town, all the way to Caesarea, telling people about Jesus.

Put the scroll back on the official's lap. Move the chariot along a little bit, slowly.

The official said to Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or about someone else?" So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. *Set the palm tree and pool next to the water.* The official said, "Look! Here is some water. Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. *Take the dolls out of the chariot, and hold them standing in the water.*

After they had come out of the water, the Lord's Spirit took Philip away. *Put Philip back in the story basket.* The official never saw him again. But he went on his way filled with joy.