

LESSON PLAN

PHILIP PREACHES

Acts 8:1-40

Lesson Memory Verse: Acts 8:5 - "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."

Lesson Aim: Teach children to tell sinners about Jesus' death and resurrection so they can be changed.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Today we want to talk about the word, "change." What do you do when you "change" clothes? (You take off the old ones and put on different clothes.) When you "change" friends? (You leave your old friends and go with new ones.) When you "change" your bed? (You take off your old sheets and blankets and put on clean ones.) When you "change" houses? (You leave your old house and move into a different house.)

The story is told a mean man that cheated his neighbors by cutting logs for firewood a few inches short of the standard length. One day it was reported that he was converted. His neighbors talked about it in a meeting and none of them believed he was saved; he cheated people and was too mean. Then one of the men left the group. He soon returned to their meeting and told them that their mean neighbor was truly saved. How did he know that he was saved? He said, "I went to a neighbor that had a load of logs delivered to his place and I measured them. They were the right length. He is saved all right." That change in cutting the logs to the right length convinced him that the wood cutter was truly converted.

HE (for Authority): When the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, those that receive Jesus Christ will be changed. No one, but Jesus Christ, can make this change possible. That is why we must tell sinners about Jesus, yes, about His death and resurrection for them. Our memory verse (Acts 8:5) tells us that is what Philip did for the people in the city of Samaria. He "preached Christ unto them." (Teachers should make it clear that Philip preached the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the only message that can change sinners. Note 1 Cor 15:3-4.)

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we will see how Philip helped many people change their lives by telling them about Jesus Christ and what He has already done for them.

I. Christians Preached Christ Everywhere - Acts 8:1-4

A. Saul caused much persecution of Christians in Jerusalem (8:1-3).

B. The persecution caused the Gospel to be preached beyond Jerusalem (8:4). God wanted the people outside of Jerusalem to be **changed** by Christ's death and resurrection.

WE: We must be willing to go anywhere in the world to tell people about Jesus so they can be **changed** from sinners to saints.

II. Philip Preached Christ in the City of Samaria - Acts 8:5-8

A. The people listened to Philip's message and obeyed (8:5-6).

B. The people were changed (8:6-7).

C. The people had great joy (8:8).

WE: Have we ever seen anyone **changed** by Christ after we told him about His power to him?

III. Philip and Peter Preached Christ to Simon, the Sorcerer - Acts 8:9-24

A. He had been a wicked man (8:9-11).

B. He received Jesus and was baptized (8:12-13). He was **partly changed**.

C. He wanted the power of Peter and John (8:14-18). He craved power to bless others with the Holy Spirit

D. He offered to pay money for this power (8:18-19). Simon needed further **change** in his life. He needed to let the Lord control his life and decide which gifts he should have.

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E. **Peter said his request was wicked (8:20-21).** God's gifts cannot be bought with money.

F. **Peter told him to repent (8:22-23).** He needed to **change** his mind and seek God's forgiveness.

G. **Simon asked for Peter's prayers (8:24).** Simon **changed** his mind; he feared God's judgment.

WE: We must go all the way with Christ in our Christian life. We need to pray for our friends to live all-out for Christ.

IV. Peter and John Preached Christ in Other Places - Acts 8:25

A. **They preached on the way back to Jerusalem.** They took every chance to witness for Christ.

B. **They preached in many Samaritan villages.** Notice how John had **changed** (Lk 9:52-56).

WE: We can witness for Christ by tracts wherever we go.

V. Philip Preached Christ to the Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-40

(Teachers: this is where you may want to teach your whole lesson.)

A. **The Spirit told Philip where to witness for Christ next (8:26).** It was on the road to Gaza.

B. **Philip obeyed and he was led to the man that needed to be changed (8:27-31).**

1. He was an important man, the treasurer of the queen of Ethiopia (8:27). However, being an important man in the Ethiopian kingdom did not **change** him into a citizen in Christ's Kingdom.

2. He was a religious man, a man that had just come from worship in Jerusalem (8:27). But being a religious man did not **change** him into a born again man.

3. He was a Bible man, he was reading the book of Isaiah when Philip met him (8:28). But reading the Bible did not **change** him into a Christian man. He did not understand what he read in Isaiah. (8:30-31). The Bible is good to read, but the unsaved man does not understand the Bible (1 Cor 2:14).

4. He was a kind man (8:31), but it did not **change** him into a child of God. He was getting close to the truth when he invited Philip to come into his chariot and teach him about the Man in Isaiah 53.

C. **Philip told the Ethiopian that Jesus Christ was the Man in Isaiah 53 (8:32-35).** He told him what Jesus Christ had done for him so that his life could be **changed**. The Ethiopian had to forget all the good things that he had done and repent of all the bad things that he had done. He had to ask Jesus Christ to save him and **change** his life completely.

D. **The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to be baptized (8:36-39).** His request showed that he wanted to be identified with Christ. He wanted to show others the **change** Christ had made in his life

1. Baptism is a picture of the believer's spiritual death and resurrection in Christ.

2. Philip baptized the eunuch (8:38-39).

3. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing (8:39). He was truly **changed** by Jesus Christ.

WE: We may know of some "good" people, but they have never asked Jesus to be their Savior. They are not good in God's eyes. They need to be **changed** by accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior just as much as bad people. We need to help "good" people as well as bad people find Jesus Christ as their Savior.

BE (for Action): How can you help a "good" person that thinks he is good enough to go to Heaven without asking Jesus to be his Savior? Ask him if he has ever told a lie? If so he is a liar. Has he ever taken anything that belonged to someone else? If so, he is a thief. Has he ever hated someone? If so, he is a murderer (1 Jn 3:15). Now you know that God is not going to let a liar, a thief or a murderer into Heaven. They need Jesus to save them from their sins. How can you help a bad person, who thinks he is too bad to go to Heaven? He feels there is no hope for him, so he is going to live in sinful pleasures now and be punished in Hell. Tell him that God loves him and will change him completely so he can go to Heaven (Jn 3:16-17; 2 Cor 5:17-21). There is only one way that any sinner can change his life so that it pleases God; he must repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Will you be a witness to sinners about Jesus? If you will witness, you will help sinners find Jesus Christ and they will be changed into the children of God. This will greatly please God. (Pray for them.)