

SCRIPT CARDS – PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Philip: *(look at the ground while you walk around)* This desert road is so long and dusty. I don't know why God sent me out here. I had plenty of things to be getting on with back home in Samaria. ...

Oh, look at that chariot! I wonder why it's stopped up there on the road. Hmm. Looks like it belongs to somebody important. Who could it be? I wonder if I should go over there or not. *(praying)* Lord, do you want me to go to that chariot? ... I have a really strong feeling that God wants me to go over there. That's how the Holy Spirit talks to me sometimes; I just get a really strong feeling that I should do something and then I pray about it. Ok, I really think God wants me to go over there and stay near the chariot. Here goes!

Hello! My name's Philip. Nice to meet you. Where are you off to?

SCRIPT CARD #1

Ethiopian: Hello! I work for the queen of Ethiopia. I have an important job - I'm in charge of all the queen's money. I've just been to Jerusalem to worship God with the believers. Now I'm on my way home. I just stopped here to have a rest and to read a little.

Philip: You're from Ethiopia! Wow! Let me check where that is on my map. *(show kids the distance between Jerusalem and Ethiopia on a map/globe)* What are you reading?

SCRIPT CARD #2

Ethiopian: I'm reading the book of Isaiah. Listen to this: *"He was beaten down and punished, but he didn't say a word. He was like a lamb being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut; he never opened his mouth. Men took him away roughly and unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. He was put to death; he was punished for the sins of my people."* (Isaiah 53:7-8, NCV)

Philip: Do you understand what you're reading?

SCRIPT CARD #3

Ethiopian: How can I understand unless someone explains it to me? Please, come up and sit with me. I can give you a lift in my chariot to wherever you are going. But tell me, is Isaiah talking about himself or someone else? I don't understand what this means.

Philip: *(sit beside the Ethiopian in the 'chariot')* Isaiah is talking about Jesus, the Son of God. Let me tell you about him. When Isaiah says, *"He was like a lamb being led to be killed"*, he means Jesus who was crucified on a cross in Jerusalem not too long ago. Jesus was arrested and taken to court to answer questions, even though He was innocent, like a lamb; He had done nothing wrong. But the Roman soldiers beat Him and laughed at Him, they spat on Him and stuck a crown made of thorns on His head. Then they made Him carry His cross outside Jerusalem and up onto the hill where they killed Him.

SCRIPT CARD #4

Ethiopian: So, is Isaiah talking about Jesus when he says, *"He was put to death; he was punished for the sins of my people"*?

Philip: Yes, that's right. Jesus died for my sin and for yours. But that's not the end! Jesus died on Good Friday, and his friends wrapped up His body in cloths and laid it in a tomb that Friday night. A big stone was rolled over the door of the tomb, and there were guards stationed there to make sure no-one would steal Jesus' body. On the third day after He was killed, very early on the Sunday morning, some women went to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. When the women got there, the stone was rolled away! When they looked inside the tomb, there was no body! Only the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus' body! Later, Jesus appeared to Mary from Magdala. She ran and told Jesus' other followers that she had seen the Lord! Jesus appeared to many other people, and then, 40 days later, He went back up to heaven to be with God, His Father.

SCRIPT CARD #5

Ethiopian: I see! Jesus died for me! Jesus died in my place! And now He's alive! He's waiting for me in heaven! I understand, Philip! I believe that Jesus saved me! I believe it! ... Stop the chariot! Look, here is some water. Can I be baptised?

Philip: Yes! If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if you believe that Jesus has saved you from sin, then you can be baptised to show other people that you believe. Let's go down to the water.

(Both of you should 'get out' of the chariot and walk to the 'water' which you have set out earlier – the water could be a blue sheet or canvas, for example. Step into the 'water' with the Ethiopian.)

You have told God about your sin and you are sorry for it. You have asked Jesus to forgive you for the bad things you have done. You now understand that *Jesus* got rid of your sin. God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to save you from your sin. You believe that He died for you, that He was buried, and that He rose to life again on the third day.

I now baptise you in the name of God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit *(direct Ethiopian to kneel down in the 'water' and pull the blue sheet over his head to signify the baptism)*. Now you must follow the Lord and do everything He teaches you.