

Lesson 5

Teaching the Gospel to an Ethiopian



Theme: Obedience — Baptism as a part of salvation

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Make or purchase heavy card stock footprints, both right and left. Print each word of the Memory Verse on a footprint, alternating right and left. Arrange the footprints in order to make a trail, so that a student can step on the words and say them. Have students walk the trail and say the Memory Verse. Since you are introducing a new Memory Verse, have them walk the trail and say the verse a few times. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk about Who? What? When? and Where? in connection with the verse.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Acts 9:1-6. Have reading students find and mark Acts 9:1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, Samaria, and Damascus on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* as described on page 9 in this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Gospel is for All Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a flashlight, a blindfold to represent blindness, a scroll, a large basket, a mat, and a robe.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - People who killed Stephen started hurting other Christians, also. Many Christians left Jerusalem for protection, but went other places teaching and preaching the gospel.

- God told Philip to join with an Ethiopian and teach him the gospel. He learned about Jesus and was baptized.
- Saul from Tarsus was going to hurt and kill Christians when Jesus appeared to him. Saul understood he was wrong in hurting Christians and started following Jesus.
- Satan was trying to stop the gospel, but he couldn't stop it.

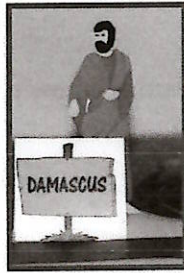
8. Give each student a pencil and a small strip of colored card stock printed with the words baptize, baptized, and baptizing. Tell the students that each time they hear one of these three words read from the Bible (not just said by the teacher or another student), they are to put a mark on their card.

From the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* take out and arrange the following: scroll for the Ethiopian, large basket for Saul, mat for Aeneas, robe for Dorcas. With great expression, read as much of Acts 8 and 9 as you feel appropriate for your students, stopping along the way to let them point out the visuals.

Let them tell the number of times they heard and marked baptize, baptized, and baptizing. Discuss the importance of baptism as a part of salvation.

Extension of this activity: Tell them they may take their strips and ask their parents if they may use their strips during this morning's sermon to mark each time they hear one of these three words from the preacher. You also might mention this ahead of time to the preacher!

9. Create a scene with a road made out of paper and add water near one end by crumpling blue cellophane or construction paper. Using the graphics on page 73 of this Guide, place a sign at one end of the road designating Jerusalem and a sign at the end with water designating Damascus. Cut out and laminate the four figures and glue them to clothes pins so they will stand up, as shown in the photographs below. Provide a flashlight that shines brightly. Place Saul and two other men on the road going toward Damascus. A light shines from heaven and Saul falls to the ground. A voice speaks from heaven. Saul gets up, but he is blind. The other men lead Saul on to Damascus. Ananias comes to Saul to deliver God's message. Saul is baptized. Get the details of the account from Acts 9, 22, and 26.



Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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10. Use the baptism display from Lesson 2 as you tell the story of the Ethiopian nobleman. Talk to your students again about their wanting to be baptized later in their lives. See page 10 of this Guide for suggestions.

Lesson 5

Teaching the Gospel to an Ethiopian



Theme: Obedience — Baptism as a part of salvation

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the footprints from Sunday, place them in a trail but pull out several key words, scattering the missing words around on the floor. Have students work together to place the footprints in the correct order to complete the trail. Have students walk the trail and say the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse.

Prayer

Starter

Try to remember something really good or exciting that happened to you. Maybe you made all A's on your report card. Or maybe you hit a home run or won a contest. The first thing you wanted to do was to tell somebody the good news. Maybe you called your grandparents on the phone or went by your friend's house. Can you think back to the feeling you had? You were almost bursting to tell someone your news!

Soon after the gospel was first preached and believed, Christians were persecuted. This means that people made it hard for them to follow Jesus. They hurt Christians and tried to make them stop believing in Christ. But many Christians would not stop. They kept on believing and telling others about Jesus.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Acts 9:1-6.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *To reinforce the account of the Ethiopian eunuch*

Have the students reenact and retell the story of the Ethiopian eunuch. Use the baptism display in telling the story. Talk to your students again about their being baptized later in life. See page 10 of this guide for suggestions.

2. **Objective:** *To illustrate change*

Mark a simple "road" on the floor with a long strip of masking tape. Have the students walk down the road, representing walking through life. At the teacher's instruction, everyone

changes direction to go the opposite way. Discuss that this is what Saul of Tarsus had to do when he became a Christian. Talk with the students about repentance.

3. **Objective:** *To demonstrate the difficulty of changing ourselves*

This activity may be called "A Big Turn." Using a marker board, have students list some things they like to do. For example, eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, playing baseball, playing a video game. As much as possible, find opposites to the activities, such as eating a ham, cucumber, and mustard sandwich, playing scrabble, or reading the newspaper. Tell the students to imagine only being able to do the opposite activities and not being able to do the ones they like. Saul had to do something like this when he became a Christian. He had to make a big turn, and it wasn't easy.

4. **Objective:** *To review the characters in this lesson*

Test the students' knowledge about the lesson by giving a character quiz. Give the students a character and have each student respond with an attribute or part of the story that tells about that particular character. Characters for this lesson are the following: Philip, Ethiopian eunuch, men traveling with Saul, Saul, and Ananias.

Journeys for Jesus Journal

I am Saul of Tarsus. I was going to Damascus to hurt Christians when something almost unbelievable happened. This changed my mind and life because ...

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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