

"I am the True Vine"

Bible verse: Jesus said, "Greater love has not one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

Context: Saul's persecution of the Early Church causes many of the believers to scatter throughout the region. Philip traveled to Samaria to proclaim the Word of Christ to those scattered there. His preaching proves very effective, and "there was much joy in that city" (Acts 8:8)

In today's reading, Acts 8:26-40, God's word does not make sense to a man from Ethiopia. Philip joins him and explains God's plan of salvation to the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian is then baptized. Baptism brings us to faith in Jesus our Savior. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Through God's Word and Holy Baptism, you have a new life. You have the gift of heaven. You have a God who forgives your sins, listens to your prayers, and is always with you. Even though it doesn't always seem like it, you have everything that really matters. Like the Ethiopian, that brings us much joy.



Read the Lesson ~ "Philip and the Ethiopian"

The Story Bible ~ Pg. 431
The Bible ~ Acts 8: 26-40

ASK:

- ◆ What do you think Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus?
- ◆ Why did the Ethiopian want to be Baptized?
- ◆ How do we receive God's gifts?
(Through the means of Grace-Word and Sacraments.)
- ◆ Why is the Ethiopian so happy?
- ◆ Since he is happy what does he

DO:

(Jesus said,) **I am the vine**; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5. Look for a fallen branch or pick some weeds. What will happen when they are separated from their nourishment?

PRAY:

Dear Father, Your Word is powerful. It makes us wise unto salvation. By grace, You have brought us to faith in Jesus through the power of Your Word and Sacraments. Give us opportunities in our everyday lives to share the story of salvation as we live as Your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Key Point of the Lesson

As he came to the Ethiopian, our Lord comes to us in our weakness, for we cannot by our own reason or strength come to Him. Through the Means of Grace, the Holy Spirit calls, gather, enlightens, and sanctifies us, keeping us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Law / Gospel

Trusting in my sinful reason, I cannot always understand the need for or the work of Christ. God grants me faith through His Word and Sacrament so that I trust in His Son, Jesus, as my Savior.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP TIME

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

P: Amen.

L: O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice;

P: In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Psalm 5:3)

L: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

P: And with Your glory all the day. (Psalm 71:8)

L: O Lord, open my lips,

P: And my mouth will declare Your praise. (Psalm 71:8)

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

P: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: "Go Ye, Go Ye, into the world", www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjDgG5tEs0A

Devotional Talk: *An adult or older child can read this to the family.*

Jesus Is the Vine

A plant or tree and a branch.

Which one of these do you think is going to live the longest? The one that is rooted in ground or this branch? Why will the one rooted in dirt live longer and grow? Yes it has everything it needs to grow. It gets water, sunlight, and it has good soil.

What happens when I break off a section? It can't get the nourishment it needs. If this were a branch from an apple tree, it couldn't make any more apples. If it were from a grape vine could it make grapes? Not only wouldn't it make any more grapes but it would die.

Our Gospel today says that we are like that branch. If we aren't connected to Jesus, we won't bear fruit and we can't get nourishment and grow. We need to be rooted in Jesus, connected to Him.

When we are attached to Jesus, we bear the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. How can we show these fruits in our lives?

Is that how we get to heaven, by doing all those good things? No! We get to heaven because Jesus died on the cross for us. He loves each of us and loves giving us what we need. Because we are connected to Jesus we can grow and flourish and bear good fruit. We can be thankful that we are connected to God through Word and Sacrament.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for staying connected to us and filling us with the fruit of the Spirit. Help us to stay rooted in You and to bear fruit for Your kingdom. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26–40

A man from Ethiopia was going home one day.
He just had left Jerusalem, where he had gone to pray.

Bounce, hold reins.

Isaiah's words were written down upon the scroll he read.
"I wish that there was someone here explaining this," he said.

Elbows at side, palms up.

But he was in a wilderness, with chariots and men.
Where could he find someone to explain the scroll to him?

Tap head, look puzzled.

Philip then came to him, sent by the Holy Spirit.
"I'll explain Isaiah's words, if you would like to hear it.

Hand out offering to help.

The man Isaiah wrote about has risen from the grave.
His name is Jesus Christ, the Lord, and He has come to save."

Make cross with fingers.

"Philip, will you baptize me? For I believe the Word.
I will share what you have said with those who have not heard."

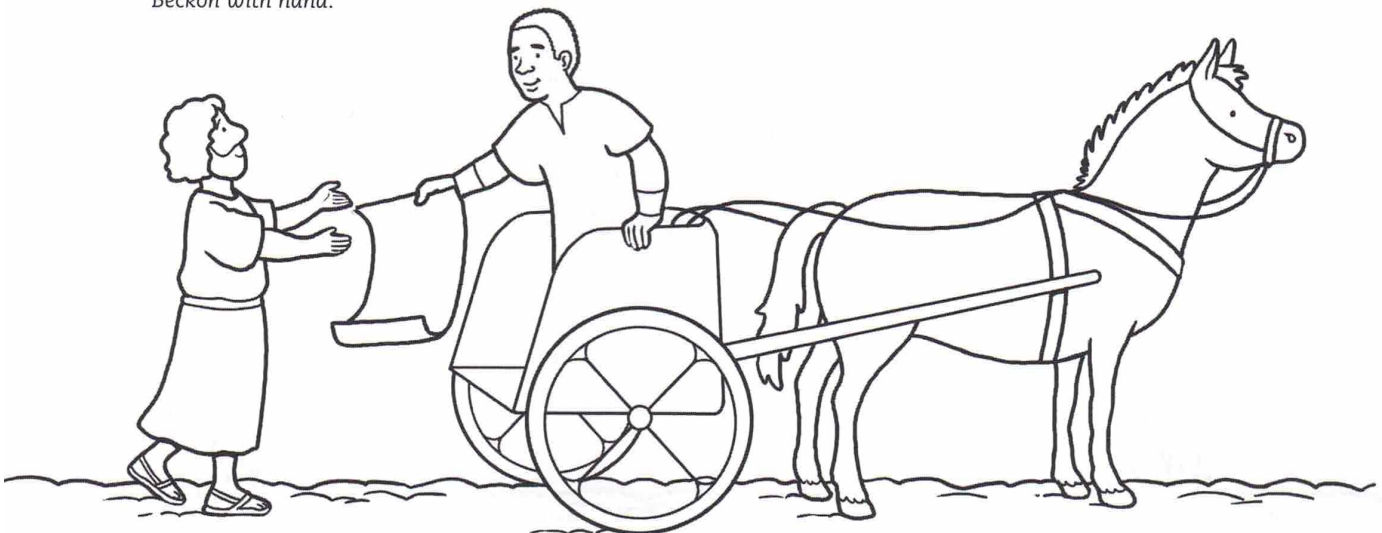
Pour water on head.

Children, let's go tell the world, empowered by the Spirit,
Of the love of Jesus Christ, so they may gladly hear it.

Beckon with hand.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Before computers and books, people wrote on flattened plants or animal skins and rolled them up. Use light brown construction paper cut in half lengthwise and paper-towels rolls. Have children draw a picture of something they like. Roll up the paper on the rolls. Trade and unroll paper to "read" the pictures.





Unscramble Words from the Scripture Readings

RABNHC

MIAENR

EIADB

DERNFSI

INLETS

SROPIWH

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HIS
LOVE
is
Perfected



If we
love one
another,



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