

*Get Ready!***Philip and the Ethiopian**

By: Betsy Moore

**Text**

Acts 8:26-40

Key Quest Verse

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

Bible Background

The book of Acts gives us an account of the first thirty years of the church. Acts tells us about the founding of the church, Christians spreading the Good News, and the work of Stephen, Philip, Peter, and Paul. The Christians were being persecuted and sought out for destruction. Stephen preached, telling the people of their past history and how they had turned from God and now they even resisted the Holy Spirit, God’s power. Those he spoke to were furious and stoned Stephen as Saul (Paul) looked on with approval. All the Christians except the apostles fled from Jerusalem for Judea or Samaria and Saul began to destroy the church. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem to encourage those that were in prison for being Christians. The church was now underground and this was the beginning of really spreading the gospel of God. The territory being covered grew tremendously. Philip was one of the Christians that left Jerusalem and sought refuge in Samaria and had become a missionary. Acts 8:4-8 says Philip was preaching, healing, and bringing joy to the people. Philip was one of the first to obey Jesus’ command to take the gospel to all people. He organized food distribution for the early church to those in need. When God called he obeyed and went without hesitation! An Ethiopian eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. He was reading in Isaiah and did not understand what he was reading. Sent by God, Philip told him of Jesus and baptized him. What a difference it made in this man’s life and probably to those in his hometown in Africa. When God calls we must obey.

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

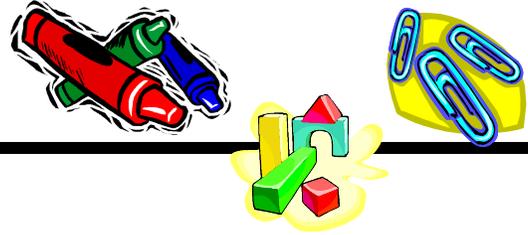
Know: We can make a difference.

Feel: Eager to spread God's word.

Do: Show someone God loves him or her.

Leader's Devotion

Can you imagine living in the days of Jesus? Think of the people that He came in daily contact with. He loved them, He fed them, He touched them, and He healed them. These people were just like you and me! Jesus loved them just as He loves you! What did He do to reach people? What can you do to reach people and testify of God's love and hope of salvation? Write a list of at least three people that you would like to invite to church and INVITE them this week.

Get Set!**Option A****SINK OR FLOAT**

Materials: Pan of water, aluminum foil, spoon, cup, crayon, paper clip, building block, etc.

Some of the items that I have with me will float in water and some of them will sink. I am going to show you an item and ask you to tell me if you think it will float or sink. Then we will put it in the water to see if you were right or not. Are you ready? Here is a wooden building block. How many of you think it will float in the water? How many think it will sink? Let's try it and see. The block is floating in the water. Next, I have a metal spoon. How many of you think it will float? How many think it will sink? Well, let's try it and see. You were right again! It sank! (Continue with items as long as your time provides) In our story, we're going to learn of a man who wondered if he was floating or sinking in sin. He decided to do something about it!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B**IS CLEANLINESS NEXT TO GODLINESS?**

Material: A basin of water, a bar of soap, a towel, and a banana. (In very dramatic fashion, begin by washing and drying your hands. Then peel banana and take a bite)

Do you ever forget to wash your hands before eating? I think that we all forget sometimes. It is good to wash your hands before eating, but Jesus says, there are some other things that are lot more important. The religious leaders during the time Jesus lived were very concerned about cleanliness. They had many religious laws and traditions that they followed to make sure that nothing unclean went into their mouth. Jesus told these religious leaders that what comes out of your mouth is more important than what you put into it. He said that the words that come out of your mouth come from your heart and those words show whether you are clean or unclean. I am sure that you have heard the children's rhyme that says, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." That sounds nice, but it just isn't true. Words can hurt. We can all remember a time when we have been hurt by someone's mean words. We can probably even remember a time when we have hurt someone else by something not nice. God hears every word we say and He knows every thought we have in our heart. It is important for us to be careful about the things we think and say, because mean words come from an unclean heart. We must let the words that come from our mouth and the thoughts that we have in our hearts be clean and ask others to church to learn more about God.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Advanced Preparation: Practice telling this story outloud to get all the actions into place

Materials: Wagon, basin of water, doll, and handkerchief (set up an area for baptism)

Procedure: Explain to the children that this is an action packed story and you need their help. First ask if they can, (practice) walk in place, jog in place, make a cross with 2 fingers, flap their arms, and blow... that will be an action for God's power... if they can follow your lead and do as you say and do; they are ready for the story. **How many of you have seen a horse before? Have you seen how fast a horse can run? Do you think you can run as fast as a horse? In our story today we're going to learn of a man named Phillip who must have run faster than a horse. First, I'm going to use this wagon to show you what happened. I need to place this man in our chariot** (place doll in chariot). **God told Philip to take a walk on a desert road** (Have kids walk in place). **Philip heard something coming** (pat your hands on your knees like horses galloping and pull wagon to center of room) **Philip heard a voice from God** (put your hand to your ear. Run to wagon and then run in place beside the wagon as the wagon moves around the room). **A man was reading his Bible** (open hands to represent Bible) **and Philip said, "Do you understand what you're reading?"** (cup hands around mouth and have kids repeat "Do you understand what you're reading"). **The man invited Philip into his chariot** (motion with arm to "COME ON IN") **and Philip jumped** (jump) **into the chariot. Philip and the man from Ethiopia read the Bible** (open hands to represent Bible) **Philip told the man the good news of Jesus.** (point to heaven) **He learned that Jesus died for our sins,** (make a cross using your two index fingers) **and that we should be sorry for the bad things we do and be baptized to wash away our sins. They saw water** (pretend to splash hands in water) **and the man said,** (point) **there's water, I want to be baptized. So the chariot stopped (Whoa, chariot) and they both got out** (jump in place) **and went to the water** (walk to area where you have baptism basin set up) **and Philip baptized him.** (Take doll and immerse it into the water... it may be a good idea to put a handkerchief over the doll's nose, and explain that no water will go up its nose) **The man was sorry for all the bad things he had done and wanted to have his sins washed away. He wanted to do what God asked and be baptized. As soon as they came up out of the water, the spirit of God or God's power, came and took Philip to another place to teach other people.** (Flap arms up and down in the air and blow as if there is a mighty wind, run to the other side of the room.) **The Ethiopian man didn't see Philip anymore but was very happy to know about Jesus and wanted to serve Him. What do you think this man did when he got home? When did he tell his friends what happened? Did he wait or do you think he told everyone the Good News of Jesus right away? What should we do? Who can you invite to church? God wants us to spread the Good News to everyone!**

Go!**Invitation****ART/CRAFTS**

Materials: 1/2 piece of construction paper for each balloon invitation, markers, glue, ribbon, stapler, Journal Page

Procedure: Fold the paper in $\frac{1}{4}$ and draw a balloon. Cut the balloons out and glue two sections together at the top only. Have the child sign the invitation and give the invitations to those people that they wanted to invite to church. Have children present a special during church worship as an incentive for guests to come. On the outside write: YOU'RE INVITED! On the inside write: CELEBRATE WITH US IN WORSHIP! Write the name and address of the church and worship times and dates. For added 3-D effect: staple curly ribbon on the bottom of the invitation. This invitation is to be used with the Journal Page project.

Quest Connection

I want everyone to know about Jesus. Do you want everyone to know about Jesus? Who is missing in church today? (wait for response, encourage children to mention other students missing as well as their grandparents, parents, or friends) **Do you think we should send them a special invitation and invite them to church? Would you like to tell them about Jesus? Why don't we send them an invitation and plan to sing a special on that day? What could we sing to let them know that Jesus loves them?** (wait for response) **That's a great idea. Why don't we sing and practice while we make our special invitations!**

Close

Dear God, We thank You for each one of these boys and girls! Help them invite others to church to learn more about You! In Jesus name, Amen.

Go!**Exercise****GAME**

Materials: Plenty of floor space

Quest Connection

Do you think Philip was a good runner? What do you think it takes to become a good runner? (wait for response) You're right, a person must exercise. Today, we're going to exercise and get in shape to run tell others about Jesus just like Philip did. Let's form a circle in the middle of the floor. First let's sit on the floor and stretch...see if you can reach forward and touch your toes. Let's bounce forward touching our toes. How many of you can put your toe up by your ear and pretend you're talking on the phone? Let's pretend we're inviting someone to church, everyone say "Come to church". Put your phone feet down on the floor and pat the floor with the bottom of your feet like you're playing a drum. Now let's stand and stretch our arms up to God and ask for His help, "Help me to tell others." Now let's turn into beautiful snowflakes and flutter around the room. Flutter to the ground, now jump up and run in place to spread God's Word. Stretch your arms to God and thank Him for sending us His son, "Thank You, God."

Close

Everyone sit on your chair and relax. Let's all remember to exercise and practice inviting others to church wherever you are.

Go!**Growing Up****SCIENCE**

Material: Cookie sheet, bowl, ½ cup liquid Joy, 1 cup of water, a straw for each child

Preparation: Work on a tray for easy clean up. Pour water in the bowl and add liquid Joy. Give each child a straw.

Quest Connection

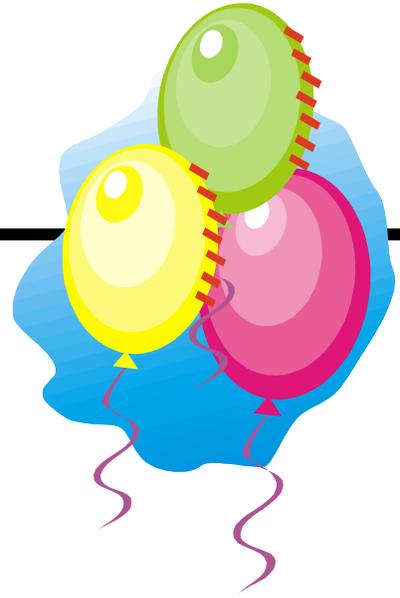
How many of you like to suck in through a straw? Today, we're not going to suck in... we're going to blow out. Can each of you show me how you can blow through your straw? Great! Look at this liquid in this bowl. It's just sitting there not doing anything, right? It's like we are without God's power! Now if we put a little air into it let's see what happens. Everyone come real close to the bowl and let's put our straws in the liquid and when I count to 3 and say 3 everybody blow. 1 2 3. WOW! Look what happens when we all work together. It's the same when we work together for God!

Close

If we all work together and invite friends to church, just look how our church can grow and people will learn about God and Jesus. How can we make our church grow? Who can you invite?

Go!**Balloon Power****GAME**

Materials: At least two balloons for each child

**Quest Connection**

What can a balloon do by itself? Let's put a little air in it and see what happens. Now I'm going to let it go. Philip was like this balloon. He was filled with God's power and went everywhere teaching! Without God we're just flat and limp just like this balloon but with God's power, we can spread the Good News!

Close

Let's all think of someone we can give a balloon to today. Allow each child to name a friend or family member. When you share your balloons remember to share the Good News, that Jesus loves all of us!

Go!**Relay Race****GAME**

Material: Hat, coat, 2 suitcases, chairs for starting and stopping for each team

Preparation: Place a hat and coat into a suitcase. Divide children into 2 teams

Quest Connection

We're going to play a game, to get ready to go on a trip to spread the Good News. At chair number one is a suitcase. The first person must run to the suitcase, open it, put on the clothes, grab the suitcase and run to the second person in your line sitting in chair number two and tell them, "Spread the Good News". Then they must return to chair number one, open the suitcase, place the hat and coat in the suitcase, run to the person sitting in chair number two and touch their hand, for their turn to get dressed and travel. Person one goes to the end of the line and will be the last one to hear, "Spread the Good News." The first team to have each team member spread the Good News is the winner.

Close

Spreading the Good News can be fun; it's exciting to tell others about our friend and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Go!**Blanket Bounce****GAME**

Materials: Blanket or sheet big enough for each child to hold an edge and be able to bounce it in the air, a ball

Quest Connection

We're going to bounce this blanket in the air. If the ball comes to you, pick it up, say, "Spread the Good News" and throw it into the center of the blanket again. (Play for several rounds until every child has had a chance to receive and throw the ball at least once, depending on class size.) Now let's change the rules just a bit. We'll stand in a circle and pass the ball to each other, each time we throw it we'll say, "Jesus is alive".

Close

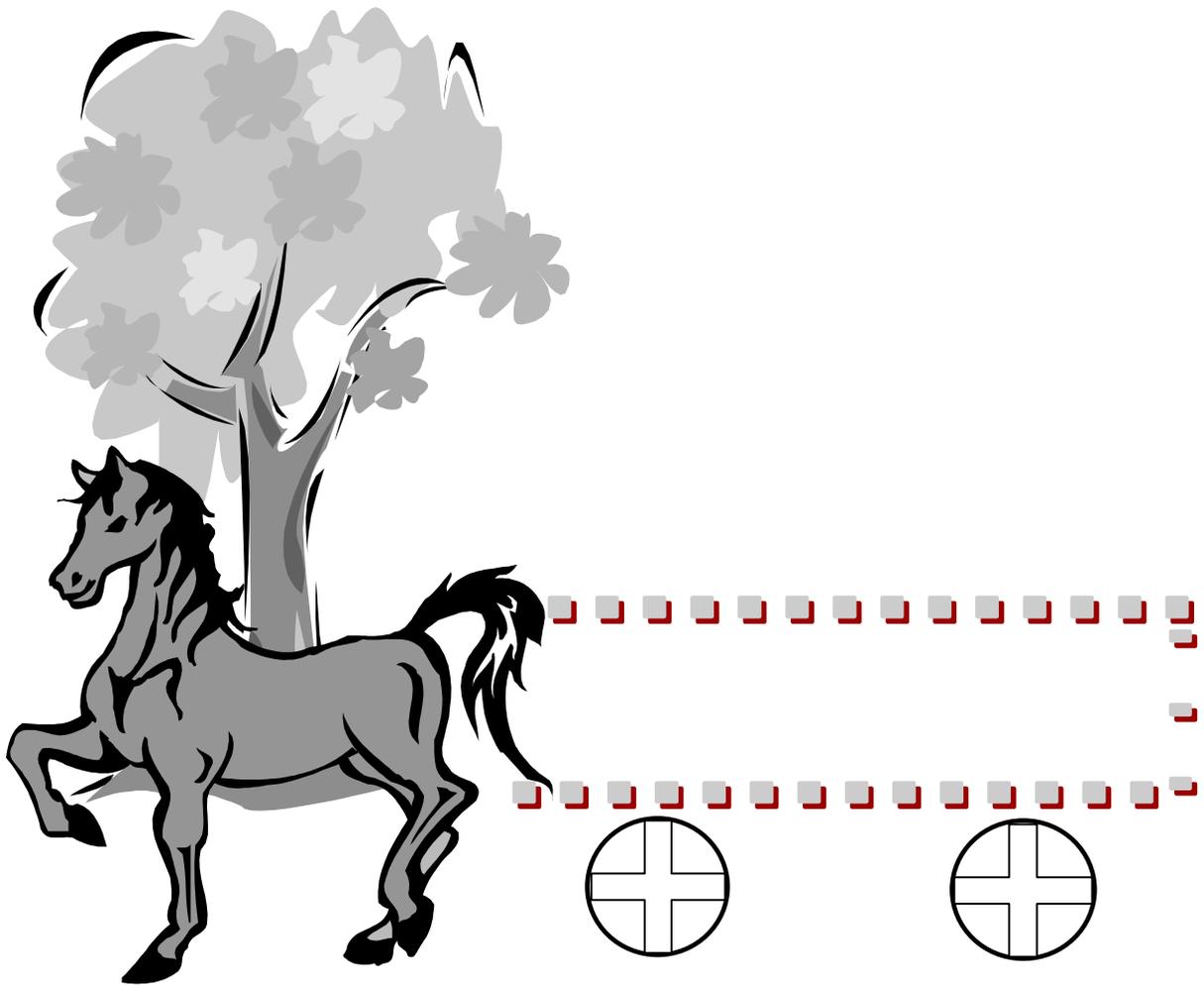
What does God want us to do? Have children shout in response: **Spread the Good News and invite people to church.**

Philip and the man from Ethiopia

Acts 8:26-40

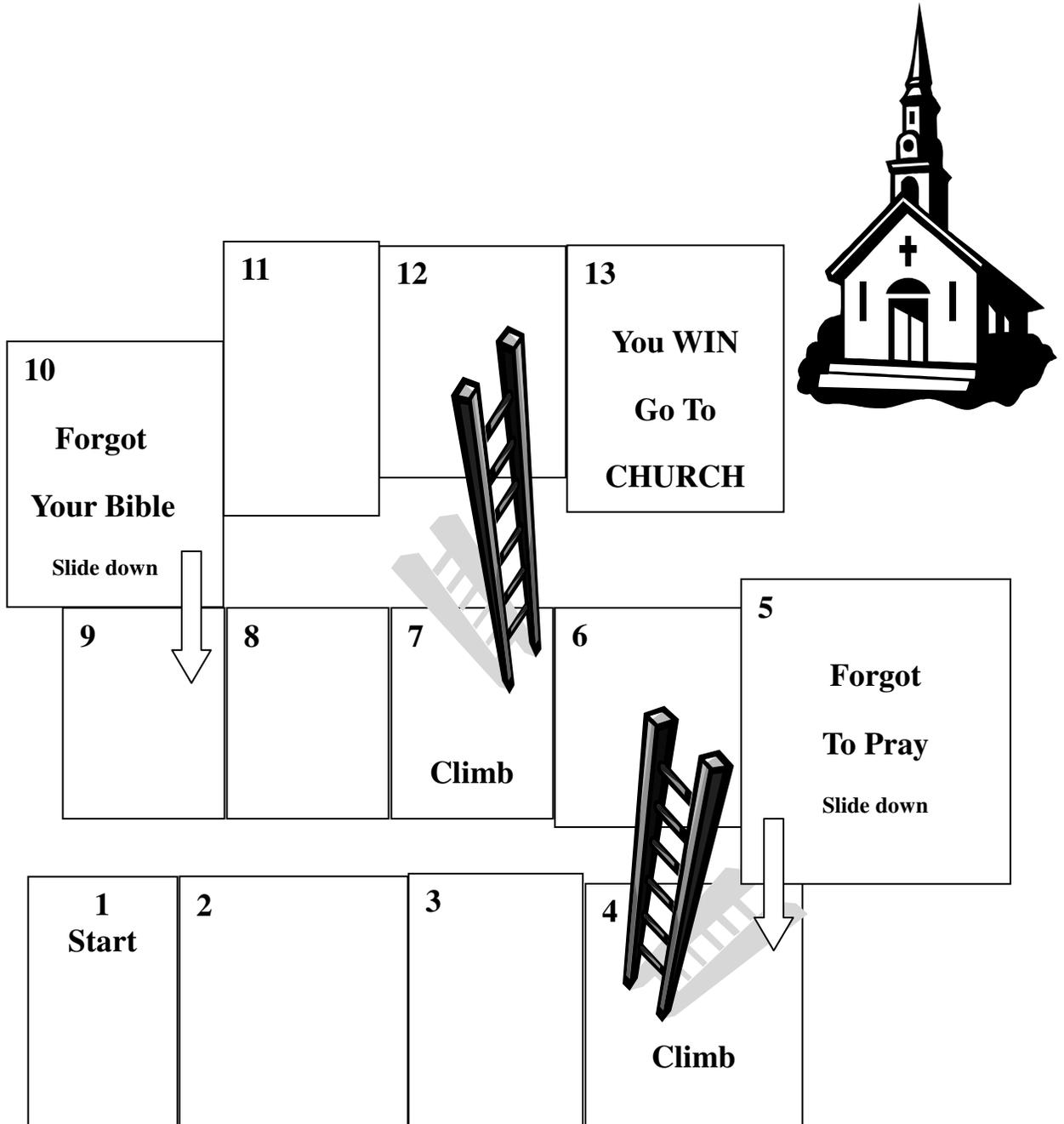
“The Lord has done great things for us...” Psalm 126:3a

Philip was a man of God. God told him to go out onto a sandy desert road. He met a man with a chariot that was reading the Bible. Connect the dots and draw Philip and the man in the chariot. When Philip shared the Good News the man believed and was baptized. Draw a pond of water for the man to be baptized in.



CLIMB AND SLIDE

Use a button as a marker to play. Flip a coin for a player to move. Heads move one and tails move two. If you land on a ladder space, climb up to the higher level. If you come to a slide, slide down to the lower level. The player that gets to church first wins!



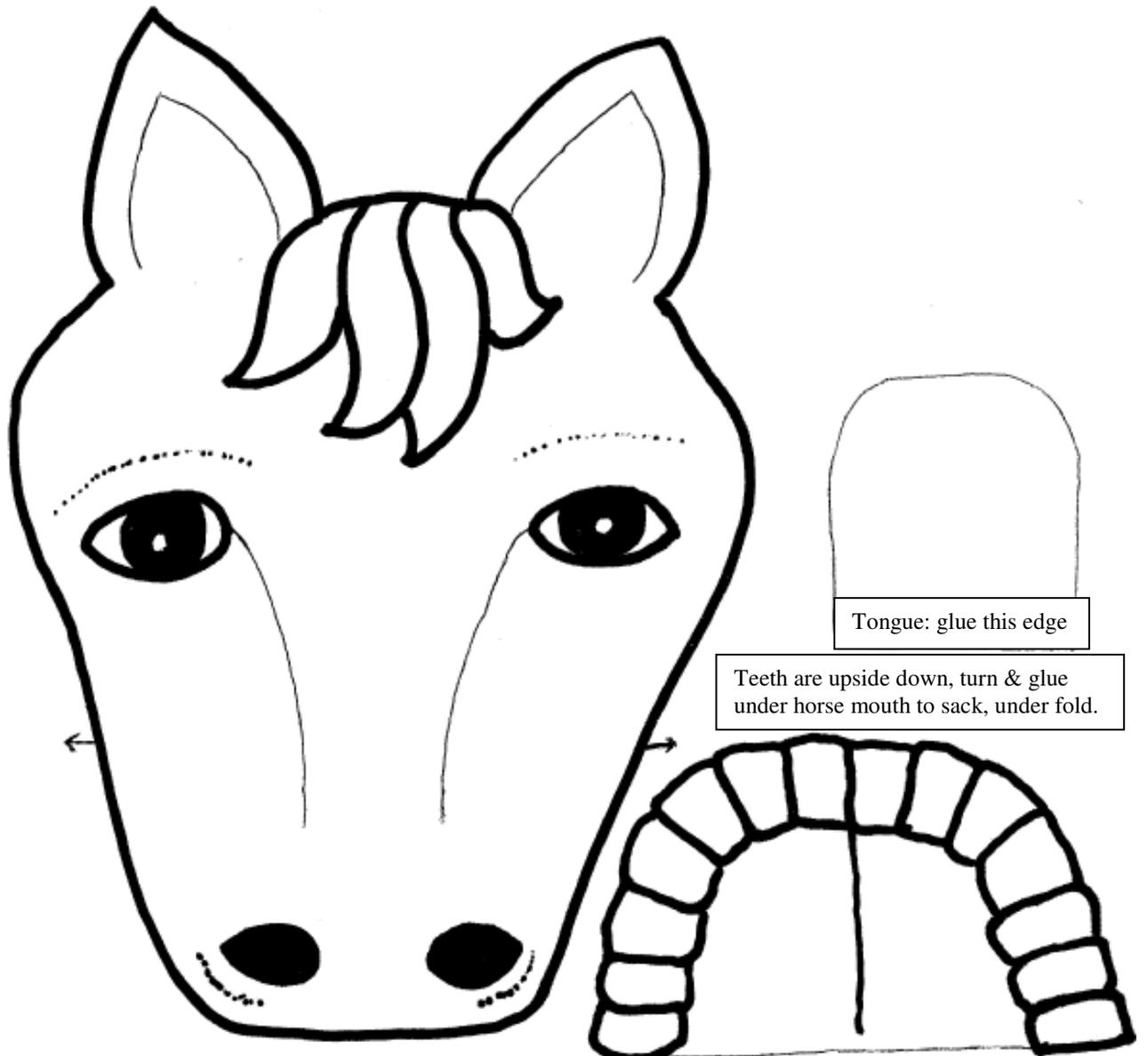
Philip and the man from Ethiopia

Acts 8:26-40

“The Lord has done great things for us...” Psalm 126:3a

Material: Brown lunch sack, scissors, glue, red construction paper for tongue

Procedure: Cut horse patterns, teeth, and tongue out for each child. Glue the horse head from the arrow up to a closed lunch sack bottom at the widest section. The mouth will hang over, make sure it is not glued against the sack. Gently lift the sack bottom to reveal the creased section (do not open the sack), slide the teeth in place under the mouth and glue the teeth under the creased section. Apply very little glue to the edge of the tongue and attach at the back of the throat above teeth.



We need to celebrate God's gift to us and tell others about God's plan of salvation.
Draw 5 balloons and write the names of someone you want to invite to church in the balloon.

I, _____, will invite them to church!



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing and writing names of people to invite to church.