



A Deacon Delivers

Philip and an Ethiopian

Acts 8:26–40

AD 36–37

The Big Picture

Philip (not the Philip who was Jesus' disciple) was one of seven deacons chosen to serve in the Early Church. God sent Philip to Samaria to proclaim the Gospel. There, Philip preached, taught, healed, and cast out demons. Then God gave Philip a special task. He was commanded by an angel to go to a lonely desert place near Gaza. He saw an Ethiopian official in his chariot, reading the scroll of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit led Philip to run over to the chariot. Philip witnessed to him, interpreting Isaiah 53 for him and showing him how it pointed to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. With joy, the Ethiopian received the Gospel and was baptized.

A Deacon Delivers

Read **Acts 8:26–28**.

- ▶ What do we know about the Ethiopian from the text?

Read **Acts 8:29–35** and **Acts 6:9–14**.

- ▶ Contrast the Ethiopian's and the Freedmen's responses to hearing about Jesus. Why do you think they responded so differently?

Read Acts **8:36–40**.

- ▶ What do you think was the result of the Ethiopian coming to faith in Jesus and being baptized?
- ▶ How has your faith in Christ affected your life and witness?



Christ Connection

Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, has called us by the Word and Sacrament to be His own. God still speaks to us through His living and active Word.



Faith and the Holy Spirit

► How does a person come to faith in Jesus?

THOUGHTS
AND QUESTIONS

A large rectangular area with a light gray dotted grid pattern, intended for writing thoughts and questions.



Child of God

Read **1 Peter 2:9–10** together.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

► What do these verses say about who you are as God's chosen child?



BIBLE VERSE

Faith comes from hearing, and
hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17