

Lesson #40



6-6-2021
LEADER GUIDE

PHILIP & THE ETHIOPIAN

ACTS 8:26-40

GOAL



To teach children to trust God and obey him, even when it doesn't make sense. Our natural mind is limited in understanding, and we cannot rely on it. God alone sees the big picture; He is everywhere, knows everything, and is all-powerful. Even during troubled times and persecution, God is active and completely in control. The story opens as the enemy rages against the young church, and the believers are forced to run from Jerusalem for their very lives. To his disciples, it may have looked like things were doomed, but God was about to accomplish his greatest work toward the expansion of His kingdom. Believers were forced from Jerusalem, but they were placed strategically in the surrounding regions to bring the good news to people who had not yet heard about Jesus. Philip was moved from Jerusalem, then out of Samaria, but it was part of God's plan that he encounter the Ethiopian who was in search of God.

CHARACTERS



Philip: A disciple of Jesus, who was forced from Jerusalem into Samaria and commanded by an angel of God to travel on the road that went from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed God without questioning, and God strategically placed him in the path of an Ethiopian dignitary, where he was given the opportunity to reveal the Messiah from Scripture. God used Philip to take the good news from Jerusalem, to Samaria, and in this last encounter, to the rest of the world.

The Ethiopian: An important man of high position in charge of all the treasury of a wealthy kingdom. On his way back from a Jewish feast in Jerusalem, he was reading from the book of Isaiah, trying to understand more about the God of Israel. God heard the searching of his heart and sent Philip to him. In this divine encounter, Philip shared the good news about Jesus the Messiah, beginning with the very text the Ethiopian was reading.



MEMORY VERSE



Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

OVERVIEW



Read Acts 8:26-40: This is a story of how God used Philip to take the Gospel of Jesus from Jerusalem to Samaria, and to the outermost parts of the known world. The persecution of the early church moved Philip from Jerusalem to Samaria; but while he boldly preached about Jesus there, an angel approached him and commanded him to take a certain road back through Jerusalem and into a place called Gaza. Without question, he obeyed God and left at once. On his way, he was directed by the Holy Spirit to approach a chariot carrying an important dignitary from a far-away region known as Ethiopia. The divine appointment gave Philip the opportunity to reveal the Messiah as prophesied in the book of Isaiah to the Ethiopian.

LESSON ACTIVITY



Listening Game | Supplies: Lots of items that make various sounds, such as coins, keys, popcorn kernels, two spoons, wadded paper, two pieces of wood, etc.

Have everyone close their eyes as you make noise with the various items, one by one. Have the children identify which object you are using to make the noise. You can also clap, click your tongue, chew on something crunchy, stomp, etc.



SUGGESTIONS

If Philip had relied on his own understanding and remained limited only by what he could see naturally, he would have missed this opportunity to take the Gospel outside of the immediate areas of Jerusalem and Samaria. He listened to God, who saw the big picture and had big plans, and obeyed what He said.

Review what it might have looked like if Philip relied on his own understanding versus trusting the limitless mind of God:

1. Philip's limited understanding: He had just fled Jerusalem and may have still been weary by the whole adventure. It wouldn't have made much sense to go back through the very city he just left and travel down a desolate desert road.

2. God's limitless mind: God knew the dangers in Jerusalem that Philip had just fled, but He had a plan that promised protection, strength, and a prosperous delivery of his word.

3. Philip's limited understanding: Philip was experiencing success in Samaria. Demons were cast out, people were healed, and new believers added to the church daily. The only thing between Jerusalem and Gaza was a desolate desert.

4. God's limitless mind: God clearly saw the precious soul of the Ethiopian leaving Jerusalem to his hometown, searching the Scriptures for answers. He sent Philip to help him see the truth in what he read.

5. Philip's limited understanding: Most likely, Philip didn't feel prepared to speak with a dignitary in a fancy chariot from a foreign land. He was on the run and probably looked like it.

6. God's limitless mind: God, through his Holy Spirit, gave Philip the authority and power to approach the dignitary, and the Lord prepared the Ethiopian's heart for the message he was about to hear.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Where was Philip preaching when the angel spoke to him?

A1: Samaria

Q1b: Have you ever liked something, like a baseball team or a famous singer, that your family and friends didn't like?

TN: This question is meant to get the students thinking about how it feels to disagree with the opinions of others in a light-hearted way. Many people in power in Jerusalem did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, and they did not like Jesus' followers spreading the Gospel.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What was the Ethiopian dignitary doing in Jerusalem?

A2: He was attending a feast.

Q2b: How would you make friends if you had to start going to a new school or church?

TN: Approaching someone you don't know and striking up a conversation can be intimidating. At the leading of the Holy Spirit, Philip just walked up to this stranger and started talking to him about Scripture. How odd that must have felt, but he did it anyway! This question should get students talking about how doing something like this takes a kind of courage.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What book of the Bible was the Ethiopian reading?

A3: Isaiah

Q3b: Have you ever helped someone understand something in school or church?

TN: If they have experience helping someone, surely someone has helped them. This is an opportunity to talk about how this kind of help is a blessing for all people involved. In the case of this story, both the Ethiopian and Philip were blessed by this meeting.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Who was the passage in Isaiah about?

A4: Jesus

Q4b: Have you ever suggested watching your favorite movie to someone who hasn't seen it?

TN: Telling someone about a favorite movie usually generates a lot of excitement. They have to explain why the movie is so great, and why this person has to see it, which mimics the excitement Philip experiences when he sees that the Ethiopian is reading Scripture prophesying the coming of the Messiah—someone about whom Philip is very excited to discuss.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Who was the sacrificial lamb described in the passage Philip and the Ethiopian read?

A5: Jesus

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did Philip do to the Ethiopian when they were in the water?

A6: Philip baptized the Ethiopian.

Q6b: Have you ever seen a Christian message somewhere outside of church?

TN: This is a basic way to get students thinking and talking about how the message of the Gospel of Jesus has spread.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What happened to Philip after he baptized the Ethiopian?

A7: He was transported to another town.

Q7b: Who are you thankful for having in your life?

TN: This is an opportunity to remind students that these people for whom they are thankful are in their lives because Jesus has a plan for their lives, and it is good. God brings people in and out of our lives. Even if they go, we should be thankful that God brought them to us. Although the meeting between Philip and the Ethiopian was short, they were both better for having met.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

- ▶ **Matthew 28:19-20** – Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- ▶ Trusting God doesn't always make sense, but God's plans are always for the best.
- ▶ Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your Word and your Holy Spirit who guides us, encourages us, and gives us peace no matter what happens. Help us to trust you and obey you in everything we do. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY

Across

- Philip came upon an Ethiopian who was an important dignitary, and was riding in a **(Chariot)**.
- The angel told Philip to journey to the region of **(Gaza)**.
- What city did the early disciples leave, so they could spread the news about Jesus? **(Jerusalem)**
- The Ethiopian was in charge of all the **(Treasures)** of an extremely wealthy kingdom.

Down

- After Philip explained the scripture to the Ethiopian, the Ethiopian wanted to be **(Baptized)**.
- God's salvation was reaching to very the ends of the **(World)**.
- As soon as the Ethiopian came up from the water, Philip was miraculously **(Transported)** to another town.
- Who was the Ethiopian reading about in the book of Isaiah? **(Jesus)**
- What book of the bible was the Ethiopian reading from? **(Isaiah)**
- The scripture in Isaiah compared Jesus to a **(Sheep)** being led to the slaughter.

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Family Devotional



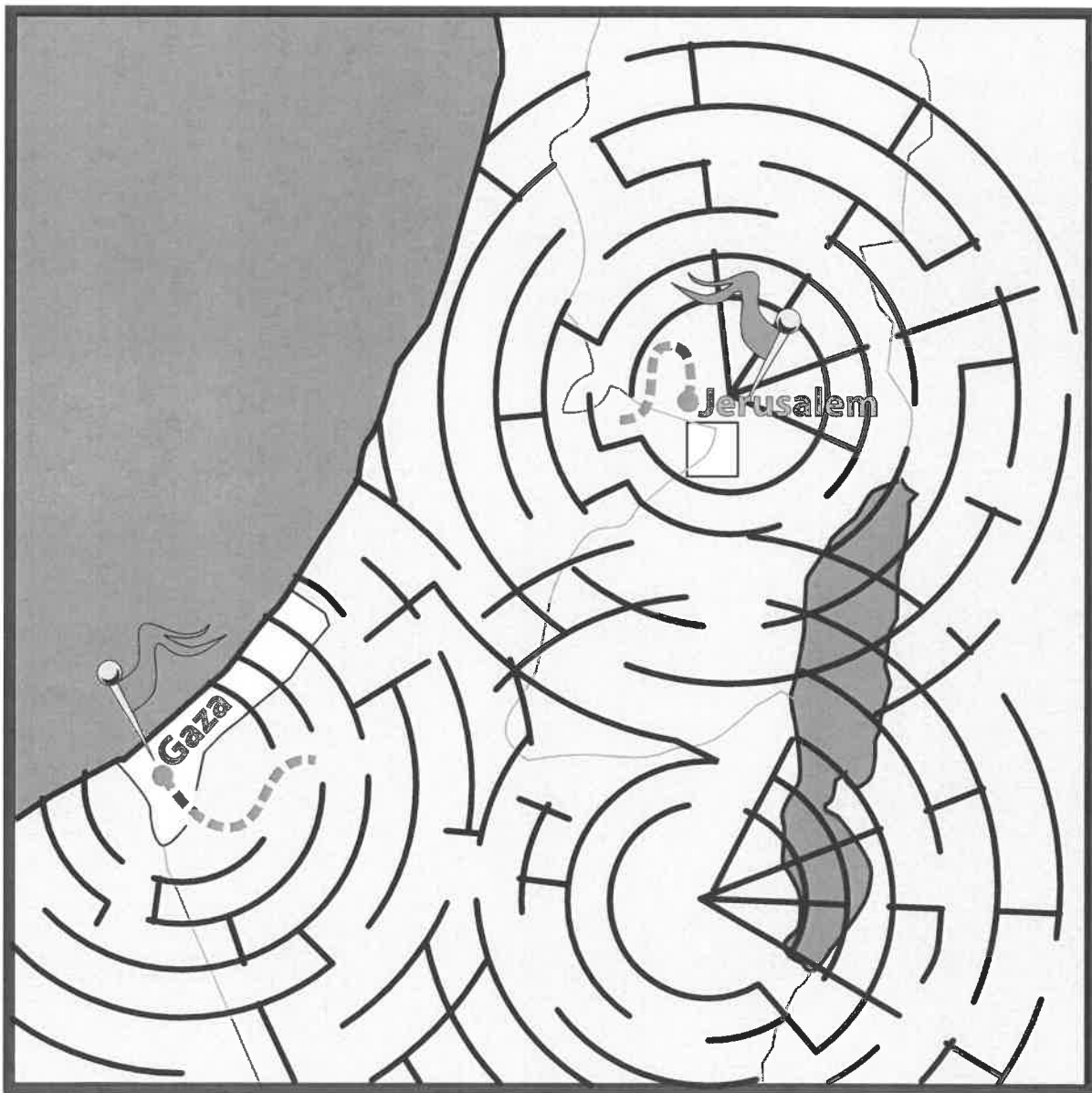
UNLOCK
CODE!

t9f8x9

families.sharefaith.com

Philip's Journeys

Follow the desert trails from Jerusalem to Gaza.
Don't cross over any water or black lines.



PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

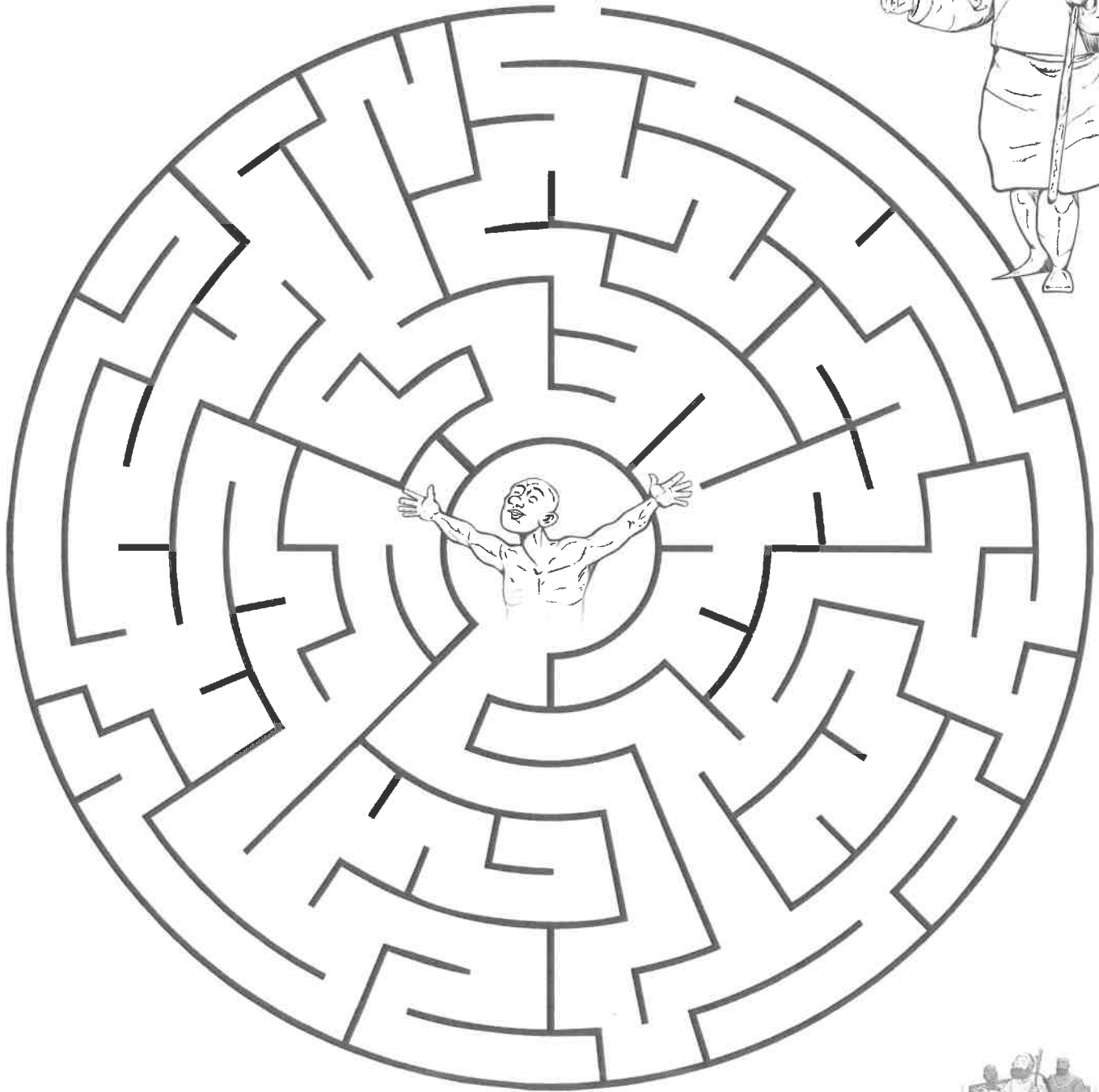


PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Lead Philip to the Ethiopian.

START





PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Discover the hidden words.



Z	C	W	F	J	T	S	U	R	J	H	Y	B	J	X
B	S	E	L	Y	R	A	Z	T	X	V	J	A	H	Q
S	C	G	Q	S	E	L	R	R	O	A	V	P	O	C
T	H	R	G	S	A	V	G	A	L	J	L	T	E	W
M	Z	E	F	M	S	A	M	N	W	P	D	I	Y	H
C	E	V	E	J	U	T	X	S	T	B	X	Z	T	G
E	T	L	E	P	R	I	A	P	O	T	C	E	S	Y
I	T	S	A	F	E	O	B	O	C	Q	L	D	L	P
D	U	H	G	S	S	N	R	R	A	Z	A	G	I	P
S	C	D	I	Z	U	E	O	T	Q	C	F	L	N	U
S	H	O	Y	O	P	R	S	E	F	P	I	E	V	P
K	E	X	I	O	P	V	E	D	Y	H	R	K	X	Z
W	E	N	L	X	F	I	Q	J	P	Y	E	B	D	G
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	A	X	I	H	I	I	G	Z
Y	L	Z	R	K	W	V	I	N	I	S	A	I	A	H

Word Bank

CHARIOT

ETHIOPIAN

PHILIP

GAZA

JERUSALEM

TREASURES

BAPTIZED

TRANSPORTED

JESUS

ISAIAH

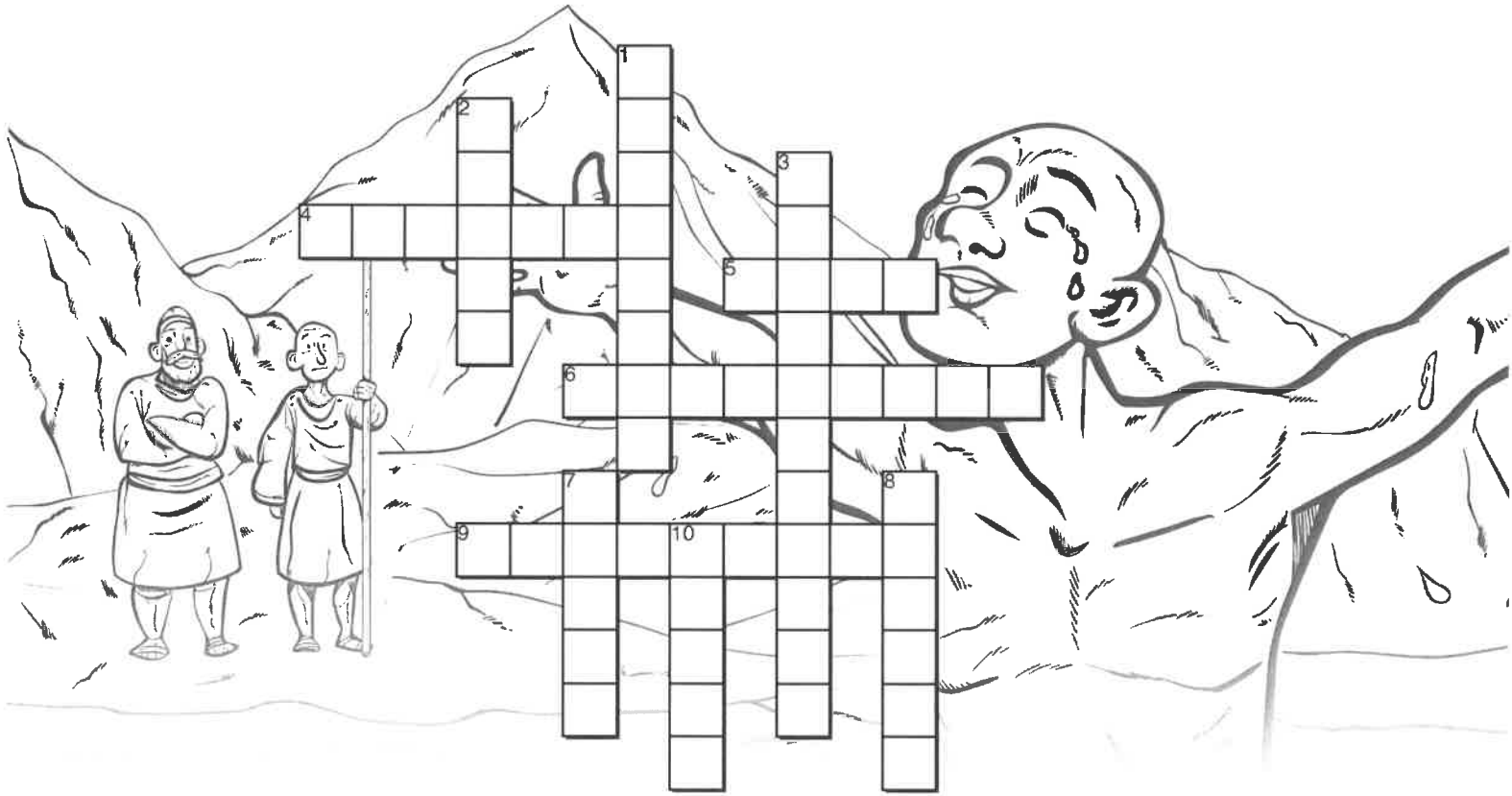
SHEEP

SALVATION



PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:26-40



Across

4. Philip came upon an Ethiopian who was an important dignitary, and was riding in a _____.
5. The angel told Philip to journey to the region of _____.
6. What city did the early disciples leave, so they could spread the news about Jesus?
9. The Ethiopian was in charge of all the _____ of an extremely wealthy kingdom.

Down

1. After Philip explained the scripture to the Ethiopian, the Ethiopian wanted to be _____.
2. God's salvation was reaching to very the ends of the _____.
3. As soon as the Ethiopian came up from the water, Philip was miraculously _____ to another town.
7. Who was the Ethiopian reading about in the book of Isaiah?
8. What book of the bible was the Ethiopian reading from?
10. The scripture in Isaiah compared Jesus to a _____ being led to the slaughter.

