Preschool–Grade 6

Philip and the Ethiopian

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Believe on Jesus and be baptized. Then be happy in Jesus!
Bible passage: Acts 8:26–40. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "and preached unto him Jesus." *Acts 8:35 (KJV)*. **Preached unto him** means told him about.
You need: a Bible, two chairs side by side (the chariot), a blue towel or blue paper (the water), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 8. Set the two chairs side by side, and lay the blue towel on the floor a few steps away.

1. Opening game: Bumpy Chariot (5 minutes)

Kids sit on the floor and hold pretend reins. Say: "We're riding in a chariot! Bumpy road!" Everyone bounces. "Slow down!" Everyone sways slowly. "Stop!" Everyone freezes. Play two or three times. Then say: "A chariot is a cart with wheels. Today we will hear a true story about a man riding in a chariot, and what happened when he stopped."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 8. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God sent Philip to a road in the desert (Acts 8:26). *(Walk in place.)*
A man rode by in his chariot (8:27–28). *(Bounce like a bumpy ride.)*
He was reading God's Word (8:28). *(Open your hands like a book.)*
Philip ran to the chariot (8:30). *(Run in place.)*
Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (8:30) *(Scratch your head.)*
Philip sat with him (8:31). *(Sit down on one of the two chairs, and invite a child to sit on the other.)*
Philip told him about Jesus (8:35). *(Point up.)*
Say it with me: "Philip told him about Jesus!"
They came to some water. "See, here is water!" (8:36) *(Point to the blue towel.)*
The man said, "I believe" (8:37). *(Put your hand on your heart.)*
They went down into the water, and Philip baptized him (8:38). *(Crouch down low, then stand up tall.)*
The man went on his way, happy and glad (8:39). *(Clap and smile big.)*
Say it with me: "I believe in Jesus!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was the man riding in? *(A chariot, Acts 8:28)*
2. Who did Philip tell him about? *(Jesus, 8:35)*
3. Was the man sad or happy at the end? *(Happy! He was rejoicing, 8:39)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Philip opened his Bible and preached unto him Jesus. Preached unto him means told him about." Teach the motion: open your hands like a book, then point up on "Jesus." Say "and preached unto him Jesus" with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 8:35" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "The man believed on Jesus, and he was baptized. God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Chariot (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a chariot with a big round wheel, and blue water next to it. While they color, ask: "Who did Philip tell the man about? What did the man see? Was he happy?" Kids who finish early can take turns riding the chair "chariot" and stopping at the water.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Jesus.
I believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child have a turn sitting on the chair chariot. If they get wiggly, do the bumpy chariot ride again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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