

# More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BEaster 5x2018

Text: Acts 8:26-40

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word - B, Eye - B, Math - B, Music - B, Self - S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic  MWD	“Get up and go!” says God to lots of folks in the OT  gaza, two meanings, town's name or treasury  Philip is going to Gaza	The use of mouths in this passage vis <a href="#">Mark Davis</a> :  “I really like the contrast between the sheep, which does not open its mouth in silence, and Philip, who opens his mouth in	<a href="#">John Fairless</a> , Lectionary Lab: “In the story, [the eunuch] is saying “I want to be baptized.” After all, Ethiopia is south of Israel – and all Southerners have a habit of asking indirect,

	and meets someone in charge of a treasury.	<p>evangelizing.”</p> <p>Also, Davis translates the end of verse 35 as “brought good Jesus news.” I really like that!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “This seems to be not a story of one man’s faithfulness so much as one about how the proclamation of God’s good news needs the hearer as much as it needs the one who declares.” ~ <a href="#">Brian Bantum</a>, The Christian Century</li> </ul>	<p>backdoor questions? As when my wife says, “You’re not doing anything are you?” What she really means is, “Please take out the garbage.”</p> <p>Luke makes good use of questions in this selection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As this story is read, encourage your congregation to write down the questions that pop into their heads about it. Collect them and if you have time, answer them in the midst of your sermon.</li> </ul>
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>Culturally, everything is “down” from Jerusalem. Like in U.S., you go “out” west or “back” east.</p>	<p>Some remarkable and beautiful <a href="#">processional crosses</a> from Ethiopia. (Art and Faith Matters)</p> <p>Rembrandt’s “<a href="#">The Baptism of the Eunuch</a>”</p> <p>Julian Van Dyke “<a href="#">The Royal Procession of the Ethiopian Eunuch</a>”</p> <p>The results of a <a href="#">google image search</a> for Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch. There are some icons, some more classical images, and some material used for children’s curricula.</p>	<p>Be sure to make use of your baptismal font. Have water in it that you can splash around a bit.</p>
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>I was listening to a podcast (<a href="#">The Bible for Normal People</a>) with Richard Rohr as a guest talking about a contemplative look at the Bible. One thing he said was that God loves surprises, and that when God forgives us, it means God is breaking</p>	<p>Jill Duffield at <i>Presbyterian Outlook</i> talks about how our attention to polity would make it impossible for us to baptize someone on the spot as Presbyterians. While there are good reasons for doing things decently and in order, sometimes it means, as</p>	<p>To demonstrate this:</p> <p>Pull out a children’s board game and play it in random order. For example, that horrible game Perfection - put all the pieces in FIRST then start the timer. (I would find this much more relaxing, frankly.)</p>

	<p>God’s own rules. If we can’t let God act incoherently, in disorderly ways, we will never experience forgiveness. I thought that was pretty cool.</p>	<p>she says, “the fruit on the vine rots, and the branch begins to die.” (Again, this ties in with the John 15 passage, but it also works here.) How does your sense of polity interact with the present ministry of the Holy Spirit? <i>MATH</i> for the logical sense of order.</p>	<p>Or, read a short story everyone knows but read the middle first, the ending in the middle, and the beginning last.</p> <p>This is how the Spirit moves sometimes!</p>
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p>	<p>Get up and go!</p> <p>This sounds like Nike’s ad of yesteryear - Just Do It.</p>		
<p>Musical</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>Vs. 39 - <a href="#">Hymn: On Our Way Rejoicing</a>. And <a href="#">here</a> is what it sounds like.</p> <p>Also, Breath on Me, Breathe of God - for the Spirit’s movement in this story and many other places in Acts.</p> <p>“I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go”</p>	<p>Use musical cues for the movements in the story: Get up, goes down, go over, went down, came up, snatched away, went on his way. These could be simple piano riffs or brief arpeggios suggesting the appropriate motion. <i>Also EYE</i> for movement in space.</p>
<p>Natural</p>	<p>As per <a href="#">Catherine Faith Maclean</a>, this story is like a geological dividing line; a clear mark between the church pre-non Gentiles and post- accepting them.</p> <p>“After the first appearance of Saul but before the seismic shift of his conversion, the Ethiopian eunuch comes on the scene, seated in a chariot and reading Isaiah. He is a powerful man, in charge of the queen’s treasury.</p>	<p>I always imagined the water that they came across as a pothole filled with a recent rain. I may have this mental image because I grew up in the high plains of the US where that was the most likely place to find standing water. However, there seem to be places called “<a href="#">limans</a>” in the Negev. Is it possible these were in the area at the time of this story? I wonder what mental images others have when they read this passage! ~Molly</p>	

	<p>He is a black man. He is also identified with a sexual reference: a eunuch, set apart in the world of our ancestors in faith. This man is an important part of the Christian story; it is not complete without him.”</p>		
<p>People - Interpersonal</p>	<p>Mark Davis: verse 33</p> <p>“Who can speak of his descendants?” That seems like a very suggestive translation, describing the lack of justice for one whose life is wrongly taken away from him, therefore he has no lineage to speak of.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HS acts as matchmaker for Philip and the Ethiopian. <a href="#">Here are some guidelines</a> for setting up a blind date.</li> <li>• Vs. 31ff - Can you think of a time when you came across someone who needed help with something that you know something about, so that you were able to help them? How did it turn out? What spurred you to offer assistance? <i>Some SELF</i></li> </ul>	<p>Discuss:</p> <p>If, after talking with someone about your experience of Jesus and this person was obviously moved to join up and said to you, “What is to prevent me from being baptised?” --- how would you respond?</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersona</p> <p>MWDI</p>			<p>Look for ways in the coming week when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - the Spirit prods you to get up and go somewhere you didn't intend to go</li> <li>2 - someone asks an equivalent question about being baptized</li> <li>3 - you perceive someone attempting to figure out a puzzling situation and know you have a way to help them</li> </ol>