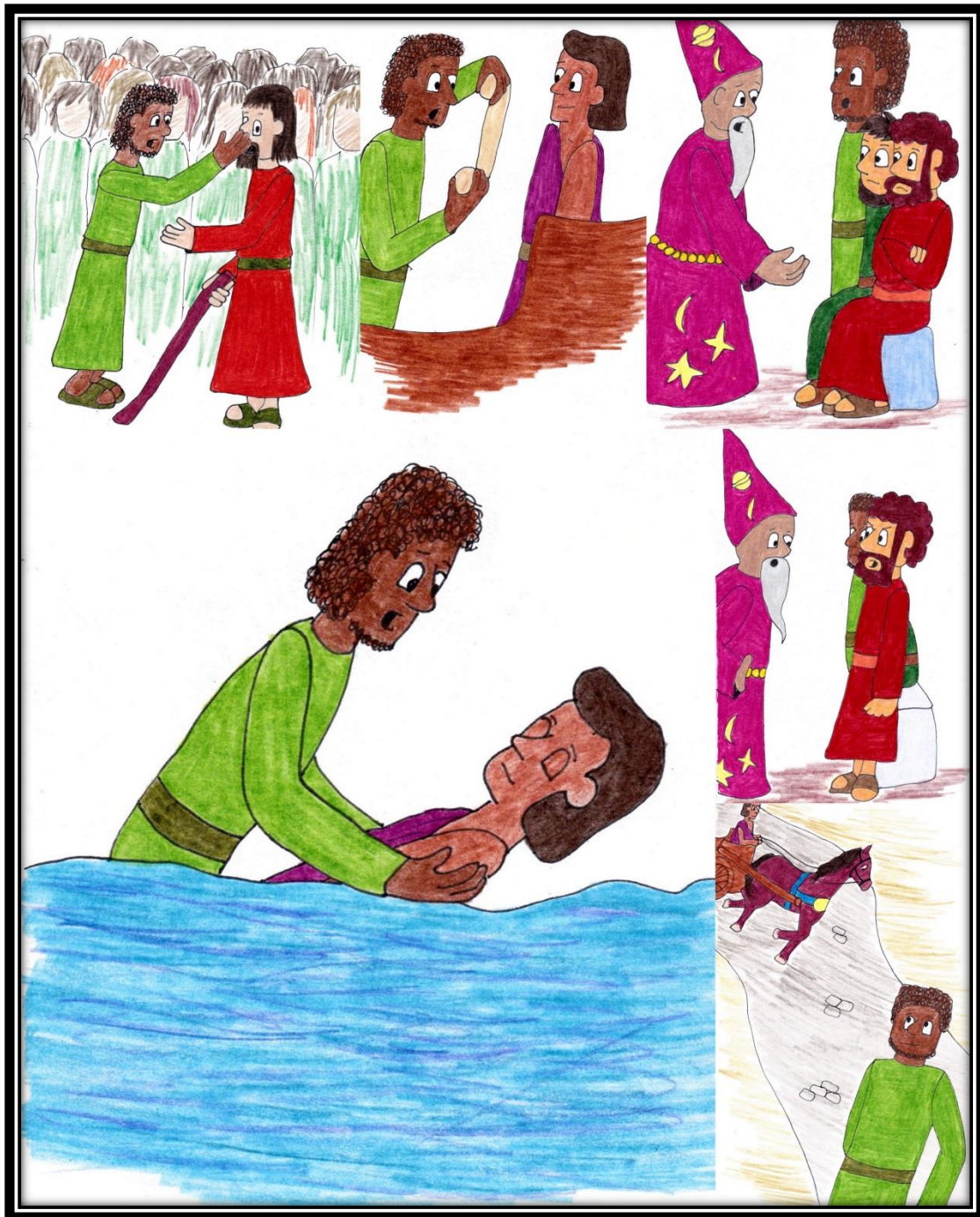
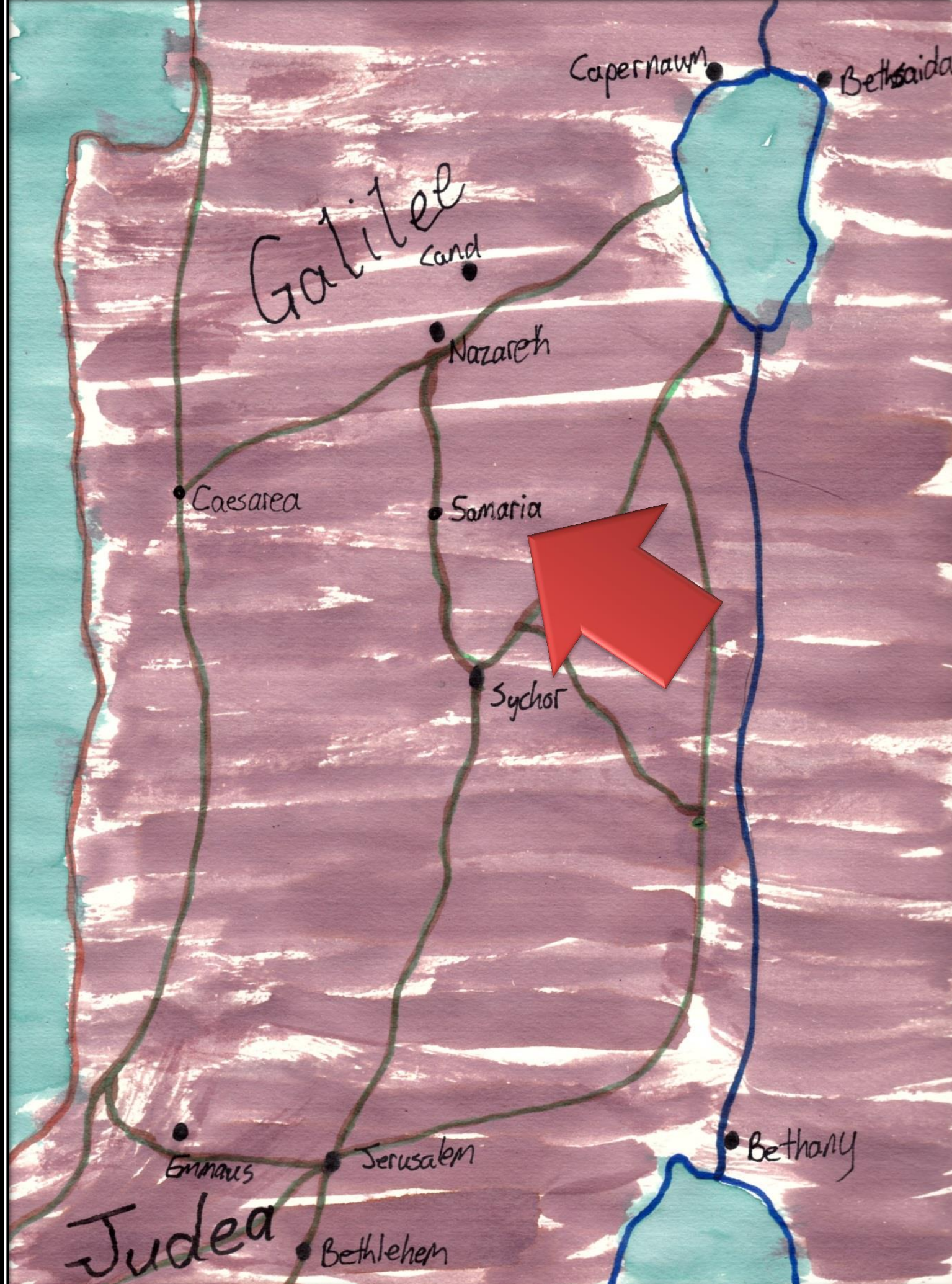


Philip preaches the Word

Acts 8:1-40





Capernaum

Bethsaida

Galilee
Cana

Nazareth

Caesarea

Samaria



Sychor

Emmaus

Jerusalem

Bethany

Judea

Bethlehem

After the death of Stephen, the church was scared. Many of the believers scattered all over Judea, trying to get away from those persecuting the church.

One of those who left was Philip, the disciples had chosen him to be a deacon and serve the church, but now he had been sent away. Philip headed north to Samaria and preached God's Word as he went.



Finally he arrived at the capital of the area and he stood in the center of the city and proclaimed the Good News. People slowly drifted to hear what this new person had to say. Then Philip saw a sick person and healed them. Another person was brought to him with a demon, and Philip cast him out.

Everyone was amazed, how was he doing this? Many came to believe, and there was much joy in the city.

At the same time there was a man in the city called Simon the Mage. Everyone in the city had been amazed because he could create wonders, and claimed to know many things.

But, when everyone heard Philip and God's Word, they all believed Philip. Simon came to hear about this new miracle worker and he too believed.

Many were baptized that day and a church was formed right there in Samaria.



Simon the Mage continued to follow Philip around and he saw the miracles Philip did. His amazement grew more and more.

After some time the apostles in Jerusalem heard about the new church in Samaria and sent people to investigate. The apostles met with the believers and laid their hands on people to give them the Holy Spirit.

Simon saw people receiving the Holy Spirit and became convinced he NEEDED that to be able to perform all the great miracles Philip was doing every day.

“How much do I have to pay to get this power?” Simon asked. “I want to give people the Holy Spirit too.”



Peter looked at Simon witheringly, “May your silver rust away. You thought you could buy God with money. Your heart is wicked and you need to repent! Pray God will forgive your heart.”

Simon looked ashamed and quickly said, “Pray for me that nothing of what you said comes true. Please help me to repent.”

Peter and the other apostles stayed on for a while longer watching the new Samaritan church. Then they traveled back to Jerusalem to tell everyone the Good News.

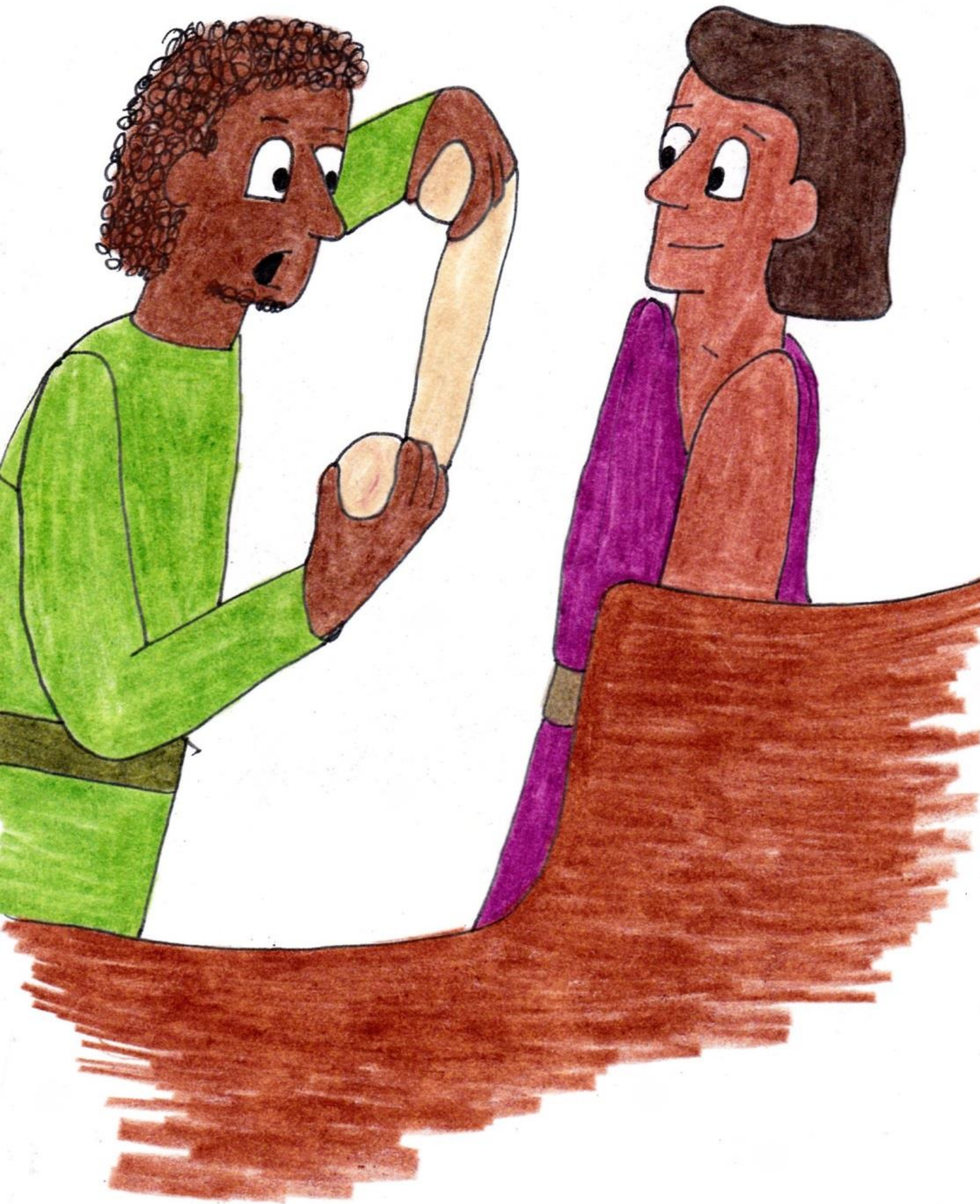


Philip headed back to Jerusalem with the apostles, and happily worshipped with them, until one day an angel came to Philip and said, “Stand up, and go South. Follow the road to Gaza.”

Philip had no clue what God was planning, but he still started walking south.

For miles he saw nothing, and then behind him he heard a chariot.

Philip knew enough to move over to the side, and as he did he noticed the man was reading from a scroll.



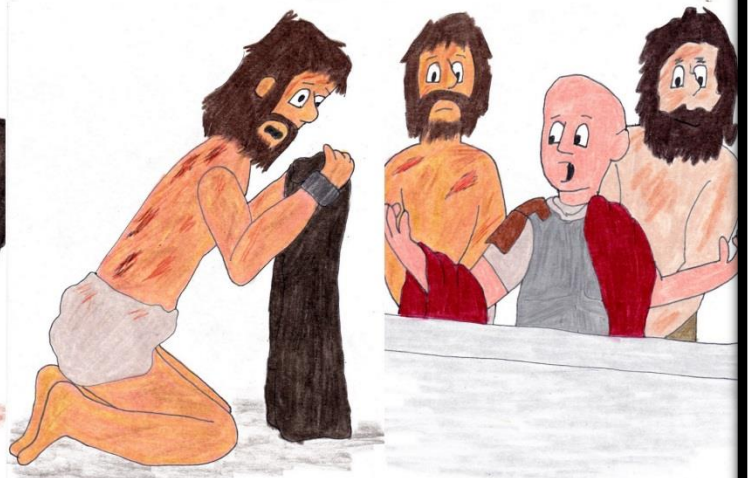
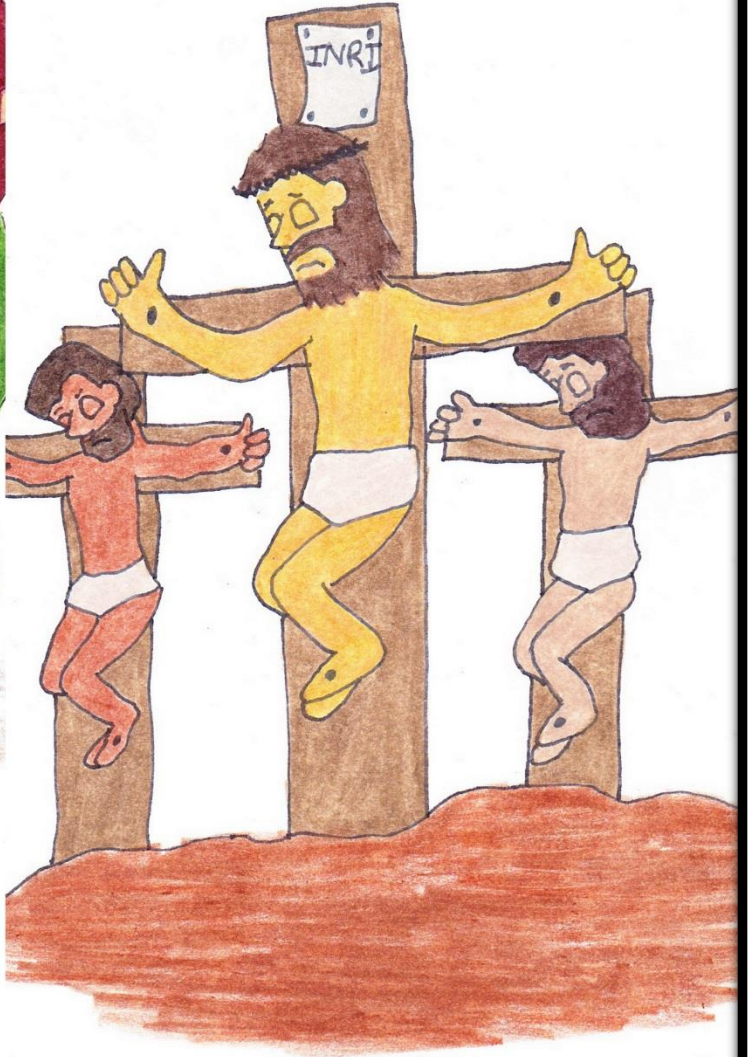
Philip jogged along beside the chariot. “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

The chariot stopped and the man pulled Philip in.

“I’ve just been to the temple and I’ve been studying this scroll of Isaiah, and I can’t make heads or tails of it. How am I supposed to understand it, if I don’t have someone to explain it?” The man muttered angrily.

“Oh excuse me, I haven’t introduced myself,” he said, I am Berhanu, I’m a servant of the Queen of Ethiopia. I have been learning about your God and asked my Queen if I could make a pilgrimage to worship at your temple. She allowed me, and now I am returning home from my trip.”

“But, I do not understand all that is written here.”



He handed the scroll to Philip who read:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he is silent. He is humiliated and justice is denied him. Who can describe his generation? His life is taken from the earth.

“I cannot ask the prophet himself, he has been dead centuries.” Berhanu said.

Philip leaned back against the side of the chariot and answered the man. He told him all about Jesus, and the prophecies God had made. How Jesus was led to his accusers and did not say a word to defend himself. Philip told about Jesus death, burial, and resurrection.



Berhanu listened to it all, and eagerly asked questions.

As they talked they passed a small oasis, and Berhanu said, “Look, there is some water! Why can’t I be baptized right now?”

And they stopped the chariot and Philip baptized him right there. As soon as Berhanu cleared the water Philip was taken away in a whirlwind by God.

Berhanu never saw Philip again, but he took his new faith with him back home to Ethiopia.

Philip found himself in Azotus, and preached his way from there through several towns finally ending at Caesarea.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. Why did Philip leave Jerusalem?
2. What did Simon the Mage want? Why was Peter mad at this request?
3. What was Beranhu's response to Philip's lesson?

Middle Kids

1. Read Acts 8:3-5. What happened because of Stephen's death? Can you think of something that was bad that also had a good result?
2. Read Acts 8:16-17. What did Simon want? Why did he want it? Did he want it for the right reasons?
3. Read Acts 8:30-31. Why couldn't the eunuch understand what he was reading? How are we able to understand scripture?

Older Guys

1. Acts 8:1 and 3-5. How did God use Stephen's death and the persecution of the church?

2. Read Acts 8:9. Can you have power without God? How do you think Simon was working his magic?
3. Read Acts 8:9. What other examples can you think of people using god for profit? Have you ever tried to use God for profit or like a good luck charm?

Activities

1. Use a Venn diagram and compare Simon the Mage and his reactions to the Ethiopians reactions. How are they the same and how are they different?

Online

1. Philip and the eunuch craft-
<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2012/10/philip-ethiopian-eunuch.html>
2. Philip and the eunuch worksheets and craft-
http://www.calvary-kids-pages.com/Acts-Philip_Ethiopian_Eunuch.html

** There is no specific name given to the Ethiopian eunuch, so I chose a name from Ethiopia to give him more personality.