**Sunday School from Home**

**Week of May 17**

The lesson this week is from Acts 8: 26-40, in which Philip meets an Ethiopian, someone who would have been considered an “outsider” by the Israelites. However, this man was seeking to learn more about God, and asked Philip to baptize him.

* Read the story from any Bible you have at home or online.
* Use a map to locate the places mentioned in the story: Jerusalem, Gaza, Azotus, and Ethiopia. Note the distance the Ethiopian man travelled to worship. What does this tell you about his faith?
* Read the scripture from Isaiah that the man was reading (chapter 53). We might read this and know it was referring to Jesus, but the Ethiopian had a different perspective. Use a study Bible or online research to delve deeper into the meaning of this passage.
* Also read Isaiah 56:1-8, and notice the instructions regarding “outsiders.” How does this instruction compare to the actions of Jesus and the actions of the leaders of the Jewish faith during his earthy life?
* If you haven’t done so already, learn to draw the fish symbol that early Christians often used to identify themselves. This can be done with traditional art supplies, with sand, or white shaving foam. The fish is an outward symbol of our faith, but what are other ways we might know someone is a Christian? How do we show our faith to others?
* What do you know about chariots? Use books or an online search to discover what they looked like, who used them, and for what purpose.
* Horses or other animals often pulled chariots. Try playing a game (outside if the weather is nice) similar to Red Light, Green Light. But instead the leader says Giddyup! For GO and Whoa for STOP, and the others pretend to be horses pulling chariots. The first person to cross the finish line while also following the instructions is the winner.
* Use any art supplies you have to draw a picture of today’s Bible story. Roll each end of the picture toward the center and secure it with a string or a ribbon to look like the scroll the Ethiopian was reading.
* Philip followed God’s instructions unquestioningly, and ended up meeting and teaching someone he would not have otherwise ever met. What has God called you to do that had an important impact in your life? Who have been the faith teachers in your life? If possible, reach out to thank some of these people for helping you to grow in your faith.
* Try building a chariot with whatever items you have around the house, and take turns giving each other a ride. You could pretend that a wagon or scooter is a chariot, or build one out of cardboard boxes. Use your imagination! Depending on the age of your children, a sturdy laundry basket might also serve as a chariot.
* Try building a model of a chariot out of random household objects or building toys like LEGOs. For a challenge, take a look at this video with some ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14aMFVlZvuU>

The video includes a remote control ball that is programed to move the chariot. You might not have that, but do you have a remote control car or other toy that could be adapted?

* What would you teach others about Jesus if you had the chance? Take turns tossing a basketball into a hoop (or balled up socks into a laundry basket, etc.). Before each toss, tell something you know about Jesus. Take turns until no one can think of anything else! Who could think of the most facts?
* Two short videos telling the Bible story for this week: <https://vimeo.com/222972404> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2D72x1dMwU>