

How to Church

Mmmmm.... Awkward

Week 1: Where do I Belong?

OVERVIEW

- Part of the Church are some practices that are super weird and maybe awkward. Today we are talking about the practice of baptism and why it is more than a bath!

Lesson Goal

- To have students begin to talk about the idea of baptism.
- Acts 8:26-40
 - V. 26-God called Philip to take a road that was less traveled, literally.
 - V. 27-28-The Ethiopian man was successful in his career
 - V. 28-Scrolls were very expensive
 - V. 30-Phillip trusted the Holy Spirit's prompting
 - V. 32-33-This verse gave Philip the perfect window to talk about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
 - V. 36-The Ethiopian could not wait to declare that he believed the gospel with his whole heart

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ^[c]³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

LESSON GOAL:

RELATE

Have everyone answer to get energy and conversation going.

In all of your years of school, who has been your favorite teacher?

READ

Allow students to bring out different truths found in the Bible passage.

Read Acts 8:26-40

What are all the things that led to the Ethiopian deciding to get baptized?

THINK

Allow students to bring out different truths found in the world around them.

What stands in the way of people deciding to be baptized?

LIVE

Help your students see for themselves what this Biblical truth looks like in their life.

Is baptism a decision you have made?

If yes, share about your experience.

If no and you're thinking about it, tell us!

If you're not in that place, there is no pressure. Feel free to ask questions or just listen.

***Leaders, if a student is interested in baptism, please let Corey or Erika know.