



# COURAGEOUS

## CHRISTIANS

### Courageous Christians: Philip

#### **Philip and the Ethiopian Officer** *(taken from Acts chapter 8)*

Philip was a good man. He worked in the same team as Stephen, distributing food and serving meals to the widows and those in the community that didn't have enough to live. The church was growing fast and many people were coming to know Jesus through the message Philip and the others were sharing as they served those around them. It was a very exciting time in the church!

One day, when he was praying and listening to God, Philip sensed the Holy Spirit asking him to do something different. "Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." So Philip obediently got ready and went.

Now an Ethiopian officer, who had an important job in charge of the Queen's money, was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home in his carriage. As he rode along, he was reading out loud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. This is in the old part of the Bible, written many years before Jesus was born.

Philip was on the road and feeling puzzled. He decided to ask the Holy Spirit what he should do now. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." Philip ran over and heard the Officer reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He bravely asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The officer replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him. The passage of scripture which he was reading was this:



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“He was like a sheep that is taken to the butchers,  
like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off.  
He did not say a word.  
He was beaten and bullied, and he was not treated fairly.”

The officer asked Philip, “Please help me. Tell me who all this is about. Is the author just writing a story about himself or did this truly happen to someone else?” Then Philip began to speak and he told the Officer the Good News about Jesus – about his birth, his teaching, his death on the cross and his resurrection.

‘God has now poured out his Spirit on us in a new way!’ Philip continued excitedly. ‘We have seen the Lord do many wonderful miracles through his Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God gives us strength and courage to continue the work Jesus started. It’s amazing!’

As they travelled down the road, they came to a place where there was some water, and the official said, “Here is some water. Can I be baptized? I want to know more about Jesus and be filled with His Holy Spirit!”

The official ordered the carriage to stop, and both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.