



PHILIPPE AND THE AFRICAN MINISTER

Slide 1

... **Slide 2** *There was a problem at school and the teacher asked the students what had happened.*

Slide 3 - *I've seen it all, Madam, replies Lucas, I've heard it all.*

Slide 4 - *So tell me what you know since you witnessed what happened.*

Quite so! Lucas is a witness. To be a witness is to say what you know, what you have seen, what you have heard, **Slide 5** *this is the mission that Jesus entrusted to his disciples. Do you remember? He said to them:*

- *Be my witnesses **Slide 6** in Jerusalem, in Samaria, **Slide 7** and to the ends of the earth."*

Slide 8 *So they left to announce the Good News all over the country and, do you know what God was doing? He was accompanying them by performing miracles and wonders.*

*We are going to follow one of these disciples, **Slide 9** it is Philip. Listen carefully and you will answer my question: **Slide 10** Who was one of the first witnesses in Africa? You will find this account in **Slide 11** the Acts of the Apostles in chapter 8.*

Slide 12 THE FIRST WITNESSES

Slide 13 *Since Philip arrived in Samaria a lot has changed and the people of the town are discussing about it.*

Slide 14 - *It's amazing! We have heard of the miracles that the disciples do in Jerusalem but now we see them at home.*

Slide 15 - *Yes! Philip prays in the name of Jesus and the people are healed. I saw a man who was possessed, tormented, he was completely delivered. He was jumping for joy, we didn't recognize him.*

Slide 16 - *I have seen several disabled people drop their walking sticks and crutches and start walking and running; among my neighbors and friends, many sick people have been completely healed.*

Slide 17 - *Truly, God works wonders among us.*

Slide 18 Whole crowds come to listen to Philippe. He tells them about Jesus' love and forgiveness, and God confirms his words with miracles.

Men discuss among themselves:

Slide 19 - Me, it's over! I'm not going to see Simon anymore. He's a thief!

- Me neither. **Slide 20** He cheated on us all, he's a crook.

Slide 21 But who is this Simon posing as a very important man? He's a magician. He amazes children and adults with his magic and witchcraft. People are fascinated by his powers, even the chiefs of the city seek advice from him.

Slide 22 But by listening to the Word of God, they understand that Simon is a wicked man. So they turn away from him.

Slide 23 Many people believe in Jesus. They get baptized and become His disciples. And what do they do next? Well! **Slide 24** They are so happy that they keep talking about what they have seen and heard, and **Slide 25** the good news is spreading further in Samaria.

Slide 26 One day, **Slide 27** an angel of the Lord appears to Philip. He tells him:

Slide 28 - Philip! Get up; go on the path that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.

Slide 29 Philip gets up and he leaves. Along the way, he hears horses pulling **Slide 30** a chariot behind him.

Slide 31 - Well, a traveler returning from Jerusalem! He says to himself as he sees them pass.

The man in the chariot is **Slide 32** an African. He doesn't pay attention to Philip; he is reading and seems very absorbed in his reading.

The Spirit of God says to Philip:

Slide 33 - Go ahead and catch up with that chariot.

Philippe runs. He is now very close. **Slide 34** The man continues to read aloud. **Slide 35** Philip listens.

Slide 36 *"He was led like a sheep to be slaughtered,
Like a lamb that lets itself be shorn without struggling!"*

- Oh! But he's reading the Word of God, Philip thinks to himself, it's a very old prophecy about Jesus.

Slide 37 - Do you understand what you are reading? He asks the traveller.

Slide 38 - No! I am thinking hard but I do not understand and there is no one to explain it to me. But, you, do come and sit in the chariot and explain to me!

Slide 39 Philip sits next to this man who came to Jerusalem to worship God and who is returning to his country more than seven hundred kilometers away. He still does not have the answer to his question, but from above God saw he and he sent Philip especially for him. This man is a minister of the Queen of Ethiopia. He manages all of the queen's treasures.

Slide 40 - Please, he asks Philippe, explain to me. Who is the prophet talking about?

Slide 41 Who is this man who accepts being sentenced to death without saying anything?

Slide 42 - It is about Jesus, who agreed to give his life for the forgiveness of all men, replies

Slide 43 Philip, who then announces the good news of the love of God, of the coming of Jesus, of His death on the cross and His resurrection. **Slide 44** The man receives all his words with joy. Finally, he understands and he believes!

Slide 45 The journey continues, the horses gallop on the path and the two men discuss.

Slide 46 - Oh! Look! The minister says suddenly, can you see? **Slide 47** There is water here. Do you want to baptize me?

- If you believe with all your heart, I will baptize you! Replies Philippe.

Slide 48 - Yes, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I believe He gave His life to save me, now I want to follow Him and be His disciple, the man answers. Stop the horses!

They both **Slide 49** go down into the water and Philip baptizes him. Then they come out of the water but suddenly the Minister looks around him, he no longer sees Philip.

Slide 50 He has disappeared. The Spirit of the Lord took him away. **Slide 51** The man gets back into his chariot and, full of joy, he continues his long journey, **Slide 52** praying and praising God who has made himself known to him.

Slide 53 What about Philip? Where is he? What did he become? The Spirit of God led him to another town where he announced the Good News.

Slide 54 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 55 *The minister has travelled hundreds of kilometers, passed through towns and villages, what did he do? He certainly told everyone he met about Jesus. Once in his country, in Africa, he spoke about Him to the queen, to the ministers, to his family, his*

friends, his servants and thus the Good news of the love of God was spread, **Slide 56** as Jesus had said. .

And after, do you know what happened? Well, it went on, there were always men, women, and children that spoke of Jesus and God walked with them, doing wonders and miracles. This is still happening today.

Slide 57 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

This is the start of missionary work. The evangelization of the world is launched. So offer your children books on the life of missionaries, how God has led them, accompanied them, how the work has continued and is still going on throughout the world.

Slide 58 Like the minister, your children may not understand what they are reading. They need to be explained to them, to be supported. I encourage you to be attentive to their reactions, their questions. **Slide 59** Nothing can replace this direct contact. If you don't know how to answer them, don't hesitate to put them in touch with people who can. Good luck!

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