

# God Makes Me Happy

### Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify the Ethiopian as a man who was happy when he found God.
- The children will name Philip as the man who helped the Ethiopian.
- The children will state a way that God makes them happy.

### Lesson Text

Acts 8:26-40

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."

*Acts 18:9*

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Chariot Ride-1

Welcome and Singing

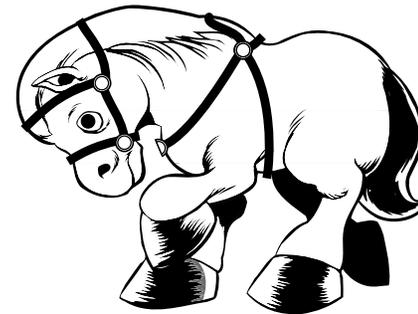
Centers:

Bible Story: Happy Ethiopian

Life Application: Stacking Happiness

Craft: Chariot Ride-2

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



# God Makes Me Happy

## Chariot Ride-1

The children will make landscapes to be used during the craft center.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- glue stick
- 1 small brown paper bag
- 1 piece of poster board, 8½" x 11"
- crayons

*For the teacher:*

- scissors
- glue stick
- marker

### Preparation

1. Prepare a landscape for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut the poster board into 8½" x 11" pieces.
  - B. Using the marker, draw a body of water in the foreground of the poster board.
2. Cut ten 2" squares for each child from the paper bags.
3. Make a model following the instructions.

### Instructions

1. Show the children your model. *This is part of a scene you will be making in the craft center today!*
2. Give each child a poster board landscape and crayons. Have them color the water and land.
3. Give each child ten paper squares and a glue stick. Have the children glue the paper squares onto the landscape surrounding the water. See Figure A.
4. Help the children to write their names on their poster board landscapes.

### Conclusion

Explain to the children that in today's Bible story they will be hearing a story about two men who meet in the desert.

### Teacher Tips

- To cut many paper squares at once, first cut slits in the sides of several bags and then flatten them out. Stack several flat bags on top of one another and then cut out the squares.

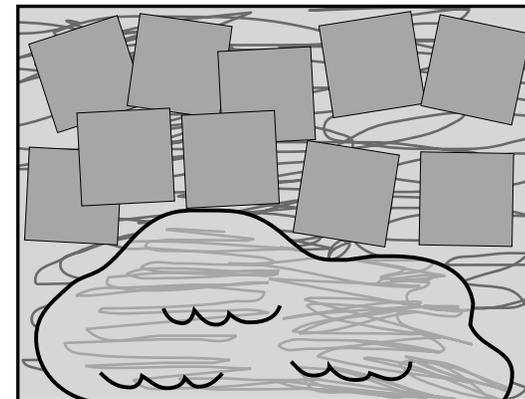


Figure A

# God Makes Me Happy

## Happy Ethiopian

The children will learn from the Ethiopian that God does things to make us happy.

### Lesson Text

Acts 8:26-40

### Materials

For the teacher:

- felt board
- crayons
- Bible
- map or globe (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. If you do not have a felt board, one can easily be made with a piece of foam board, purchased at a craft, office or art supply store. Cut the board to approximately 11" x 17". Cover the board with a piece of black felt, overlapping the material and stapling or taping it on the back.
2. Cut out and color the figures of Philip, the Ethiopian, the chariot, the horse, and the sun from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
3. Roll a piece of tape and put it on the back of each figure.

### Good News

Open your Bible to Acts 8 and place it in your lap. Place the Ethiopian on the felt board.

*Hi, children! Today I want to tell you a story about something that happened to me. I am an Ethiopian. I am from a country called Ethiopia. It is in Africa. If you have a globe, show the children where Ethiopia is. Ask the children what country they are from. I work for the Queen of Ethiopia. Her name is Candace.*

*One day I was taking a trip back home to Ethiopia. I was riding in my chariot in the hot desert. Place the chariot and the sun on the felt board. As we traveled, I read the Bible. Do you know what the Bible is? Take responses. That's right! It is a book about God. While I was reading, I was feeling a little sad because I didn't understand what I read.*

*Then, a man I'd never seen before came running up to my chariot! His name was Philip. Place the Philip figure next to the chariot. God had sent him to me! He asked me if I understood what I was reading. I told him that I did not understand it. I invited him up in my chariot. He came up and sat next to me and I showed him what I was reading in the Bible. Philip helped me to understand that I was reading about Jesus (Acts 8:30-35). I was so excited. I wasn't sad anymore! He told me all about how much God loves me, and that God sent his son, Jesus to die on the cross so that I could be forgiven for my sins. As soon as we saw water, I asked Phillip to baptize me (Acts 8:36).*

*I know that God sent Philip to help me and to make me feel happy. I learned from the Bible that God loves me very much. It made me so happy to learn that God cares about me so much! God cares about you too! He knows how to make each of us happy. Thank you, children, for listening to my story. Now I have to go back into my chariot and go home to my country. I think I'll read my Bible on the way – it makes me so happy to know about God! I can't wait to tell my friends all about him! They will be so happy to learn that God loves all of them too! God has done so much to make me laugh and smile and feel terrific, and he wants to do the same for you. Goodbye, and remember, it makes God happy when we are happy! Place the Ethiopian figure on the chariot and move it across the felt board.*

# God Makes Me Happy

**Conclusion**

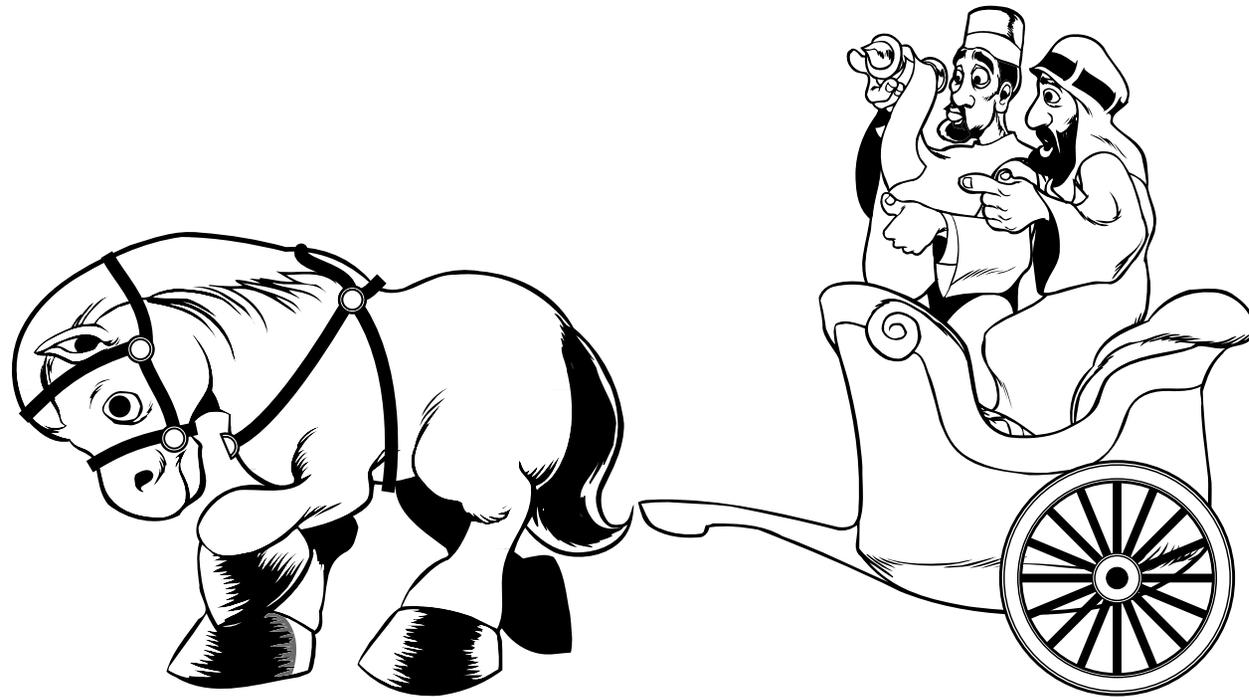
Ask the following questions as a review:

- Who was happy when he found out about God? (the Ethiopian)
- Who did the Ethiopian meet on the desert road? (Philip)
- Who sent Philip to the Ethiopian? (God)
- Why did God send Philip to the Ethiopian? (because God wanted the Ethiopian to be happy, because God wanted to help the Ethiopian learn the Bible)
- How did Philip help the Ethiopian? (helped him understand about Jesus and God)
- Did the Ethiopian want to listen to Philip? (yes)

- Do we need help sometimes to understand things about God? (yes)
- How did the Ethiopian feel after Philip helped him? (happy)
- How does God want us to feel? (happy)

**Teacher Tips**

- Be sure to emphasize that God cared for the Ethiopian so the children can understand that God cares for them.
- If you have a globe or a map you can show the children where Ethiopia is. Talk to the children about what country they are from and show them where they live on the globe.



# God Makes Me Happy

## Stacking Happiness

The children will build a tower as they share things about God.

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."

*Acts 18:9*

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- a set of building blocks

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

### Instructions

1. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor or around a table.
2. Discuss with the children some of the things that make them happy (ice cream, toys, going to the zoo, going to the park, etc.). *God is the one who gave you all of those things, because he wants you to be happy. Sometimes, he makes us happy by giving us people who love us, like our mommy and daddy, our brothers and sisters, our teachers and friends. God even uses you to make other people happy!*
3. Place some of the blocks in the middle of the circle. Tell the children that they are going to build a high tower. They will take turns putting one block on top of the other. As they put a block on, they will share either something that they are thankful for or something that God has done to make them happy.
4. When the tower falls, start building the tower over again.

### Scripture Memory Activity

Each time the tower falls have the children say the memory verse together.

### Conclusion

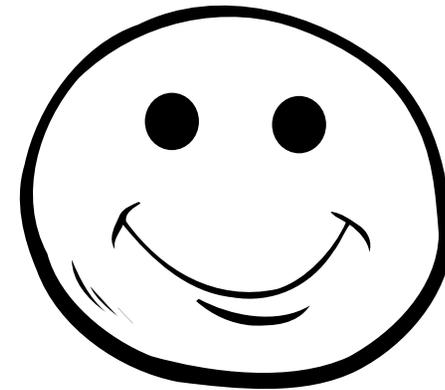
*God wants us all to be happy. How can you thank God for all the work he does to make us happy? (be obedient, pray and thank him, love other people, be happy)*

Remind the children that many of their friends that do not go to church do not know that God wants them to be happy too. Encourage them to talk to their friends about today's class.

Choose a child to thank God for working hard to make them happy.

### Teacher Tips

- Choose blocks that are the same size and shape. If the class does not have any, borrow them from a family or another class in the children's ministry.



# God Makes Me Happy

Life

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P  
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N

“Do not be afraid, keep on speaking, do not be silent.”

Acts 18:9



# God Makes Me Happy

## Chariot Ride-2

The children will make three-dimensional scenes of Philip and the Ethiopian's meeting.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- poster board landscape from the Preclass Activity
- glue
- crayons or markers

*For the teacher:*

- scissors
- glue stick
- yarn
- brown paper bags
- fine point marker

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for each child
- Page C, 1 copy for each child
- Page D, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. Prepare a horse for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut out the two horse pictures from the copy of Reproducible Page B.
  - B. Fold up the tabs near the horses' hooves.
  - C. Glue the horses together back-to-back except at the tabs. See Figure A.
2. Prepare a chariot for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut out the two chariot pictures from the copy of Reproducible Pages C and D.
  - B. Fold up the tabs at the chariots' wheels.
  - C. Glue the chariots together back-to-back except at the tabs. See Figure B.
3. Cut two 6" pieces of yarn for each child.
4. Cut two 1" squares for each child from the brown paper bags.
5. Print, "Isaiah" on each paper square.
6. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

### Instructions

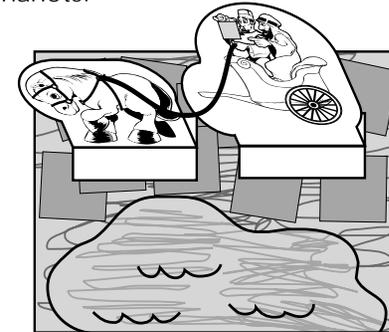
1. Give each child a horse, a chariot and a few crayons. Have them color the pictures.
2. Give each child two paper squares and a glue stick. Have the children glue the paper squares on each side of the chariot, as shown in Figure C.
3. Help the children to add the pictures to their landscapes, see Figure D, as follows:
  - A. Give the children their poster board landscapes from the Preclass Activity.
  - B. Have each child glue the tabs of the horse onto the landscape so the horse is standing on one side of the land.  
NOTE: The children will need to leave sufficient space behind the horse to glue a chariot.
  - C. Have each child glue the tabs of their chariot onto the landscape behind the horse.
4. Give each child two pieces of yarn. Have them glue one end of the yarn to the horse's neck and the other end to the front of the chariot.

### Conclusion

Remind the children that the Ethiopian was very happy, because Philip told him about God. Philip helped him to be baptized and to have a right relationship with God.

### Teacher Tips

- Use gold, silver and purple fabric scraps or wrapping paper to decorate the chariots.



# CRAFT

## God Makes Me Happy

horse  
pictures  
back-to-back

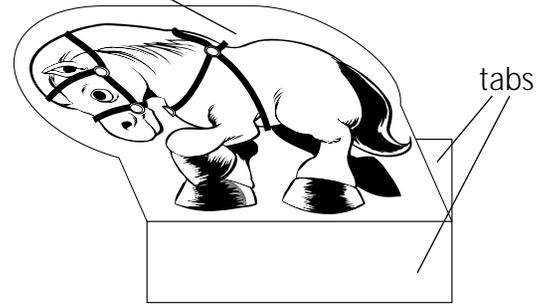


Figure A

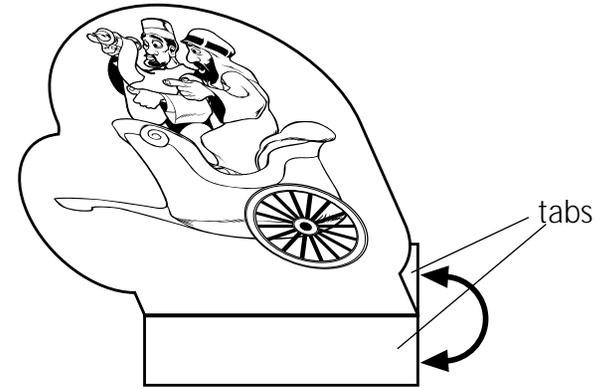


Figure B

paper  
square

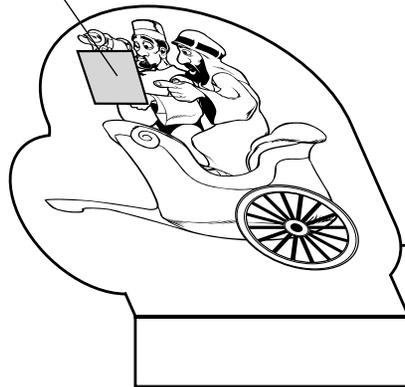


Figure C

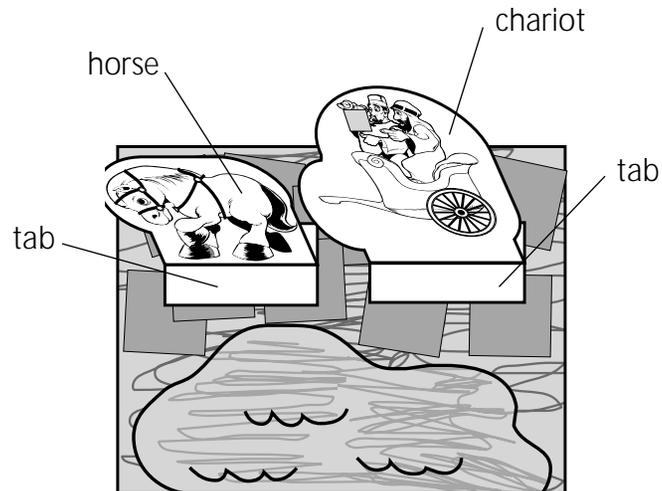
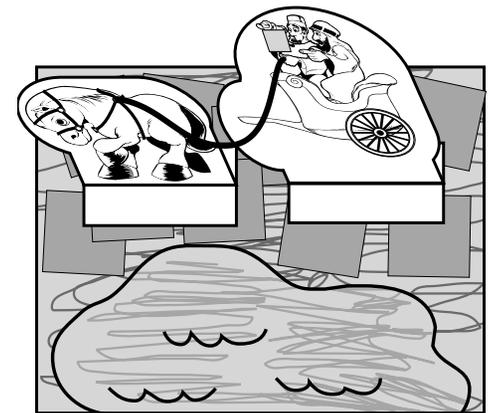


Figure D



Finished Craft





Pre class



# God Makes Me Happy

## Lesson Objectives

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### Lesson Text

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*Acts 18:9*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: God Gives to Me-1

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: God Gives to Me-2

Craft: Good News

Life Application: Stacking Happiness

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

## God Gives to Me-1

The children will make concentration cards that show the things that God has given them. The cards will be used in the game center.

### Materials

For each child:

- 4 index cards, 3" x 5"
- crayons

### Preparation

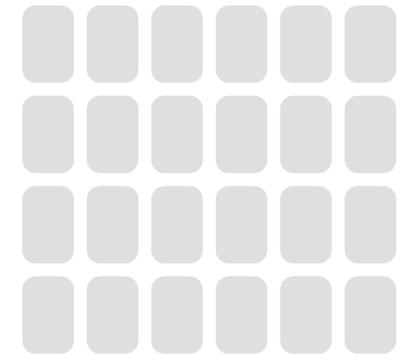
Make two model cards following the instructions.

### Instructions

1. Remind the children of the Bible story that God works very hard to make us happy. Ask the children to tell you some things that God has done to make them happy. Explain that they are going to make some concentration cards for the game center.
2. Give each child two index cards. Ask them to draw a picture of something that God has given them or done for them that has made them happy.
3. Have them draw the same picture on the second card so there are two cards of the same picture.
4. As the children draw, write a description of their picture on the bottom of each card.
5. When they finish one pair of cards, give them another pair of cards to do.

### Teacher Tips

- Be sure the children keep the other side of the cards blank so that they all look alike when turned upside down.
- Encourage the children as they draw. If the children need ideas, ask them questions such as, what makes you happy? What do you like to do?





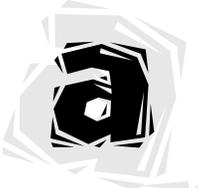
### God Gives to Me-2

The children will play a game of concentration to help them understand what God does to make them happy.

#### Materials

For each child:

- cards from the Preclass Activity



#### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the game.

#### Instructions

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Place the cards face down in columns and rows.
3. Have the children take turns turning over two cards at a time. If they match, the child keeps the pair and explains why the pictured item might make them happy. If the cards do not match, have the child turn them back over and have the next child take a turn.

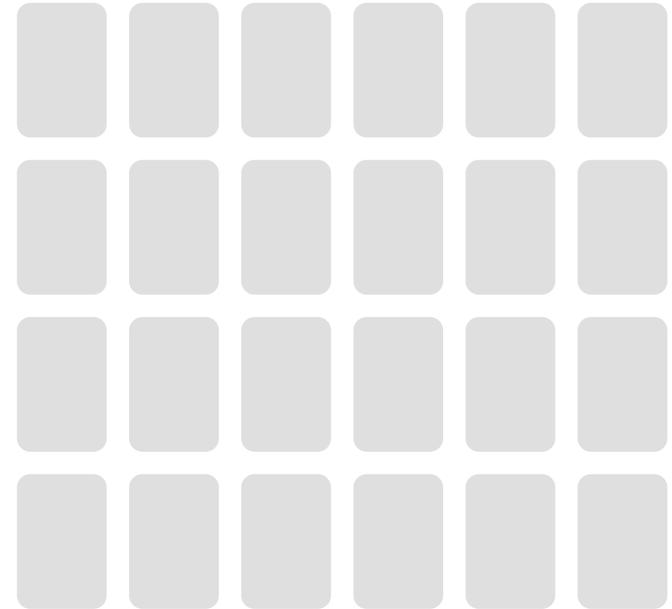


#### Conclusion

As you close, encourage the children about how well they have played and how much God loves them and wants them to be happy.

#### Teacher Tips

- If the picture is not clear, read what is written on the bottom of the picture and explain it to the child.
- Have extra pairs of cards that you have made, in case the children do not make enough.



# God Makes Me Happy

## Good News

This craft will remind the children that they can bring the good news of God to people just like Philip did.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 1 piece of construction paper
- crayons or markers
- glue stick

*For the teacher:*

- hole punch
- scissors
- fabric scraps, wrapping paper scraps or other decorative materials

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. Cut out the box from the copies of Reproducible Page E.
2. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

### Instructions

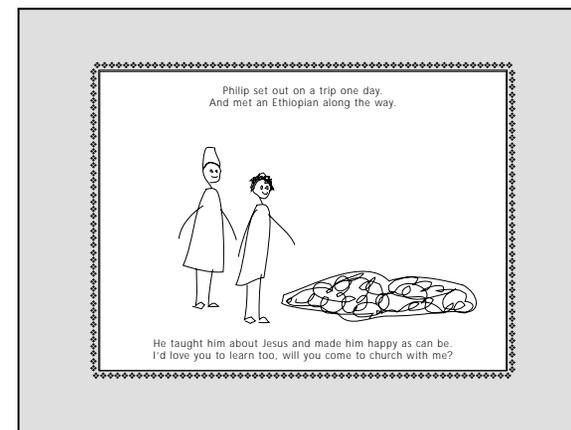
1. Show the children the model of the craft. Remind the children of the Bible story. Remind them that Philip made an Ethiopian man very happy by telling him about God.
2. Give each child a box from the copy of Reproducible Page E. Have them draw a picture of Philip and the Ethiopian.
3. Have the children glue their picture onto the center of a piece of construction paper as a frame.

### Conclusion

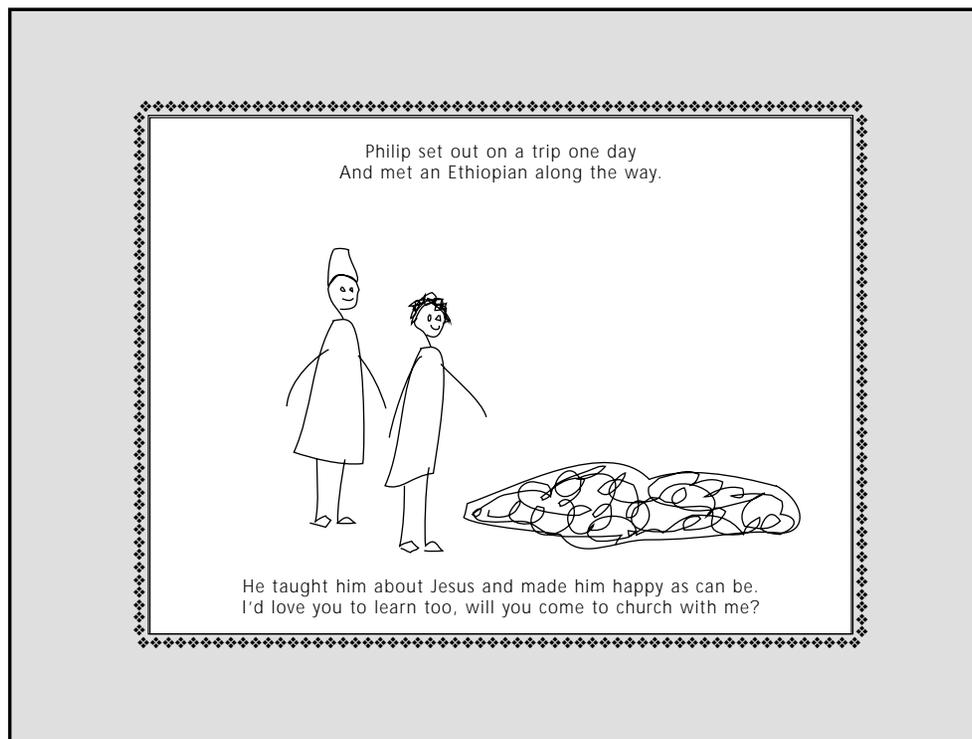
Talk with the children about who they can share the good news about God with. Who can they give their picture to and let them know that God wants to make them happy.

### Teacher Tips

- Give the children ideas if necessary: Philip and the Ethiopian talking in the chariot, Philip baptizing the Ethiopian, Philip running up to the chariot.



# God Makes Me Happy



Finished Craft



# God Makes Me Happy

## Stacking Happiness

The children will build a tower as they share things about God.

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."  
Acts 18:9

### Materials

For the teacher:

- a set of building blocks

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

### Instructions

1. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor or around a table.
2. Discuss with the children some of the things that make them happy (ice cream, toys, going to the zoo, going to the park etc.).  
*God is the one who gave you all of those things, because he wants you to be happy. Sometimes, he makes us happy by giving us people who love us, like our mommy and daddy, our brothers and sisters, our teachers and friends. God even uses you to make other people happy!*
3. Place some of the blocks in the middle of the circle. Tell the children that they are going to build a high tower. They will take turns putting one block on top of the other. As they put a block on, they will share either something that they are thankful for or something that God has done to make them happy.
4. When the tower falls, start building the tower over again.

### Scripture Memory Activity

Each time the tower falls have the children say the memory verse together.

### Conclusion

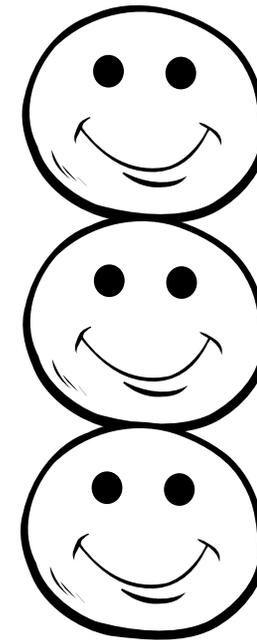
*God wants us all to be happy. How can you thank God for all the work he does to make us happy? (be obedient, pray and thank him, love other people, be happy)*

Remind the children that many of their friends who do not go to church do not know that God wants them to be happy too. Encourage them to talk to their friends about today's class.

Choose a child to thank God for working hard to make them happy.

### Teacher Tips

- Choose blocks that are the same size and shape. If the class does not have any, borrow them from a family or another class in the children's ministry.



# God Makes Me Happy

“Do not be afraid, keep on speaking, do not be silent.”

Acts 18:9



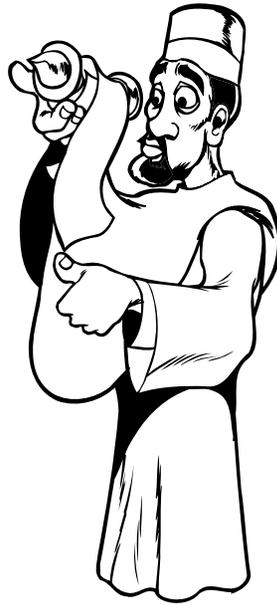
Core/Bible Story  
1 copy for the teacher

God Knows Me

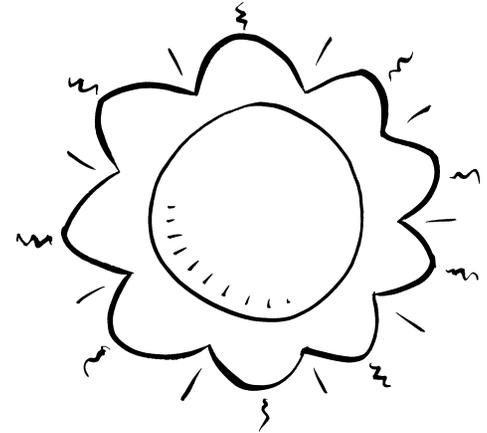
Lesson 4



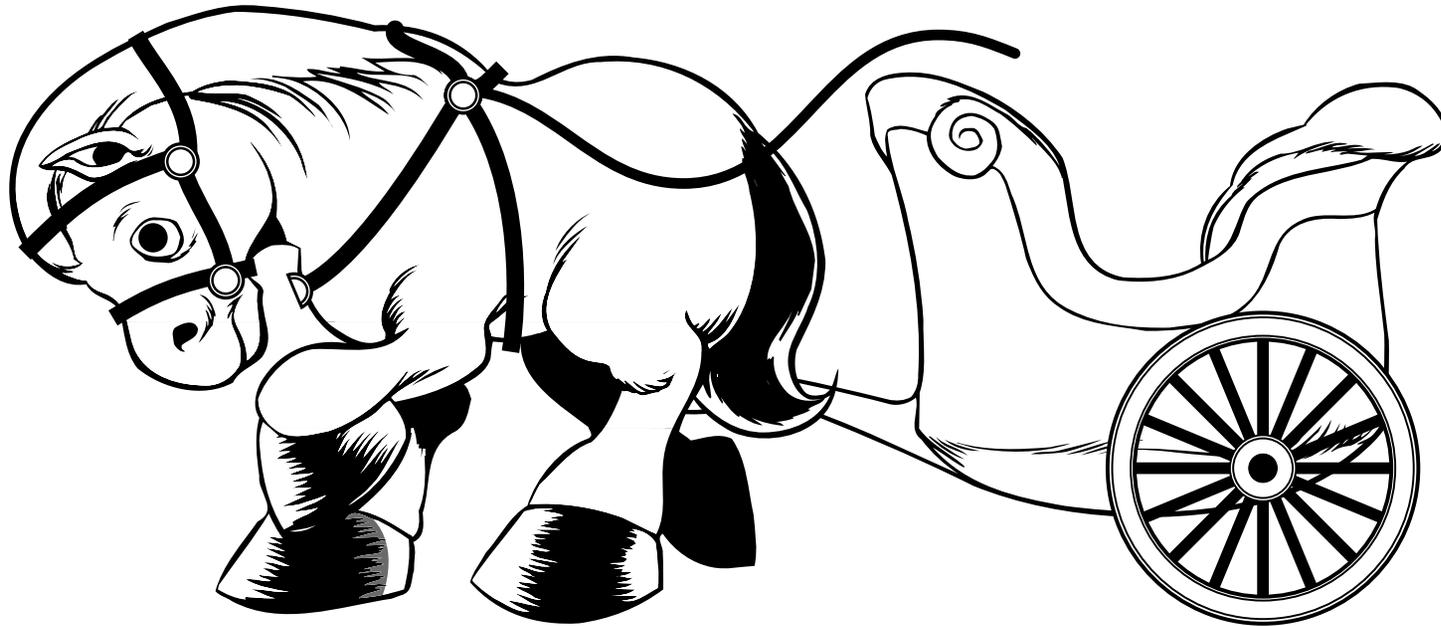
Philip



Ethiopian

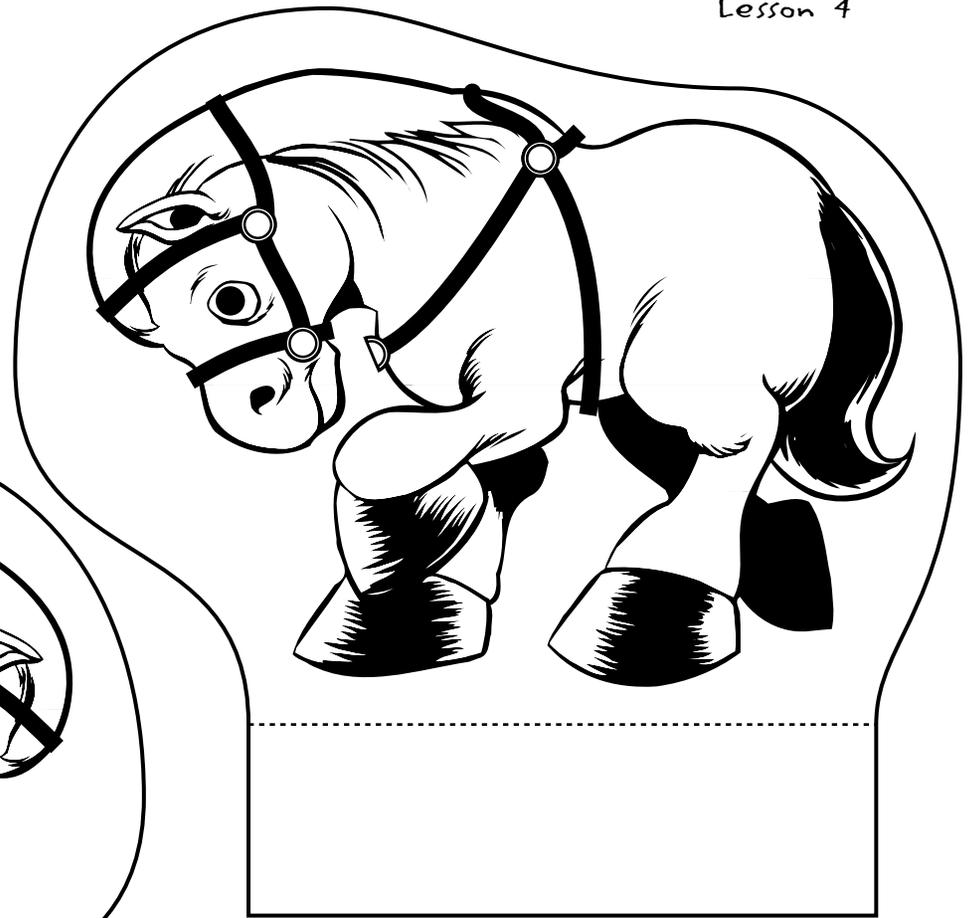


sun



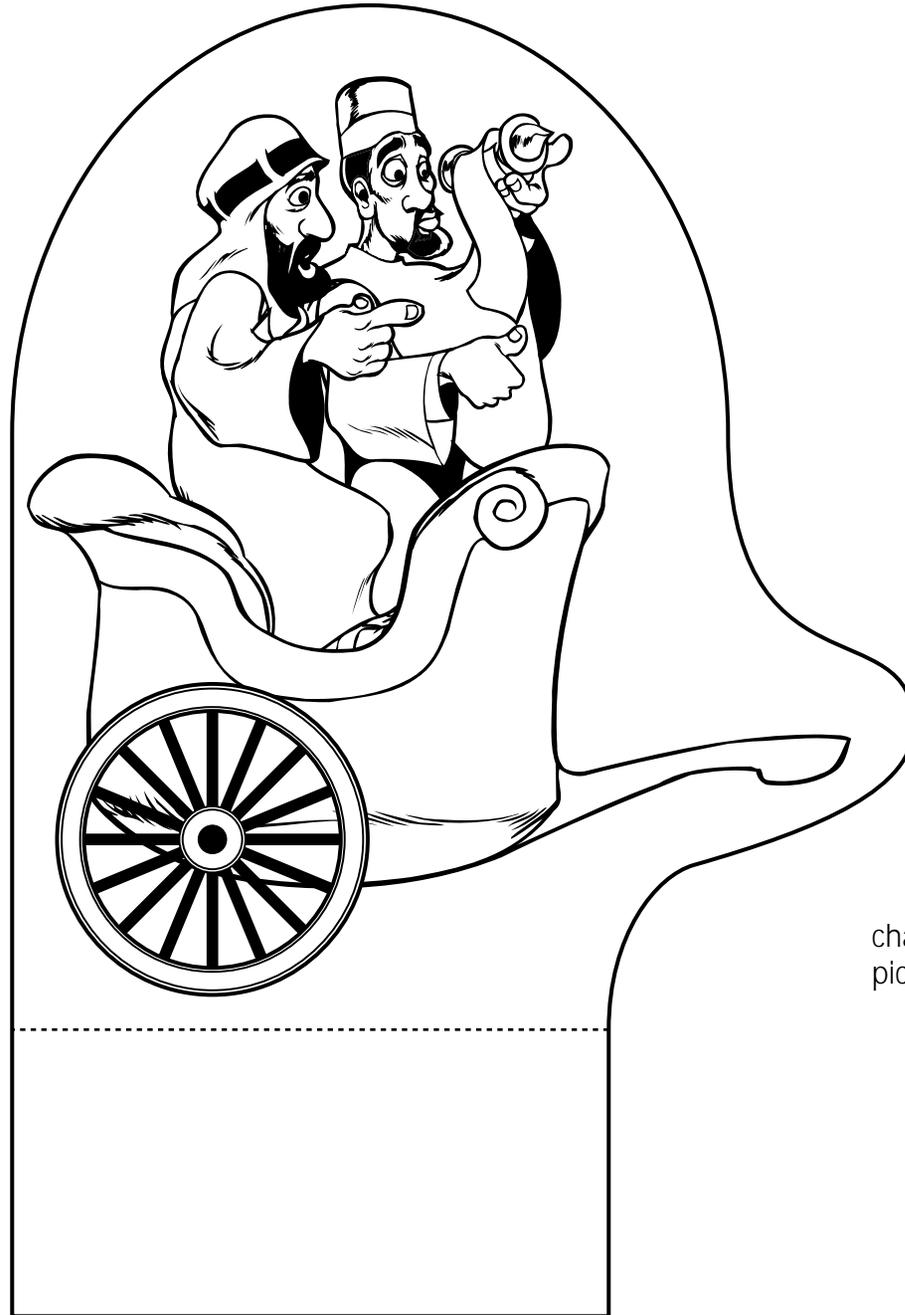
chariot  
and horse

Core/Craft  
1 copy for each child



horse  
pictures

Core/Craft  
1 copy for each child



chariot  
picture

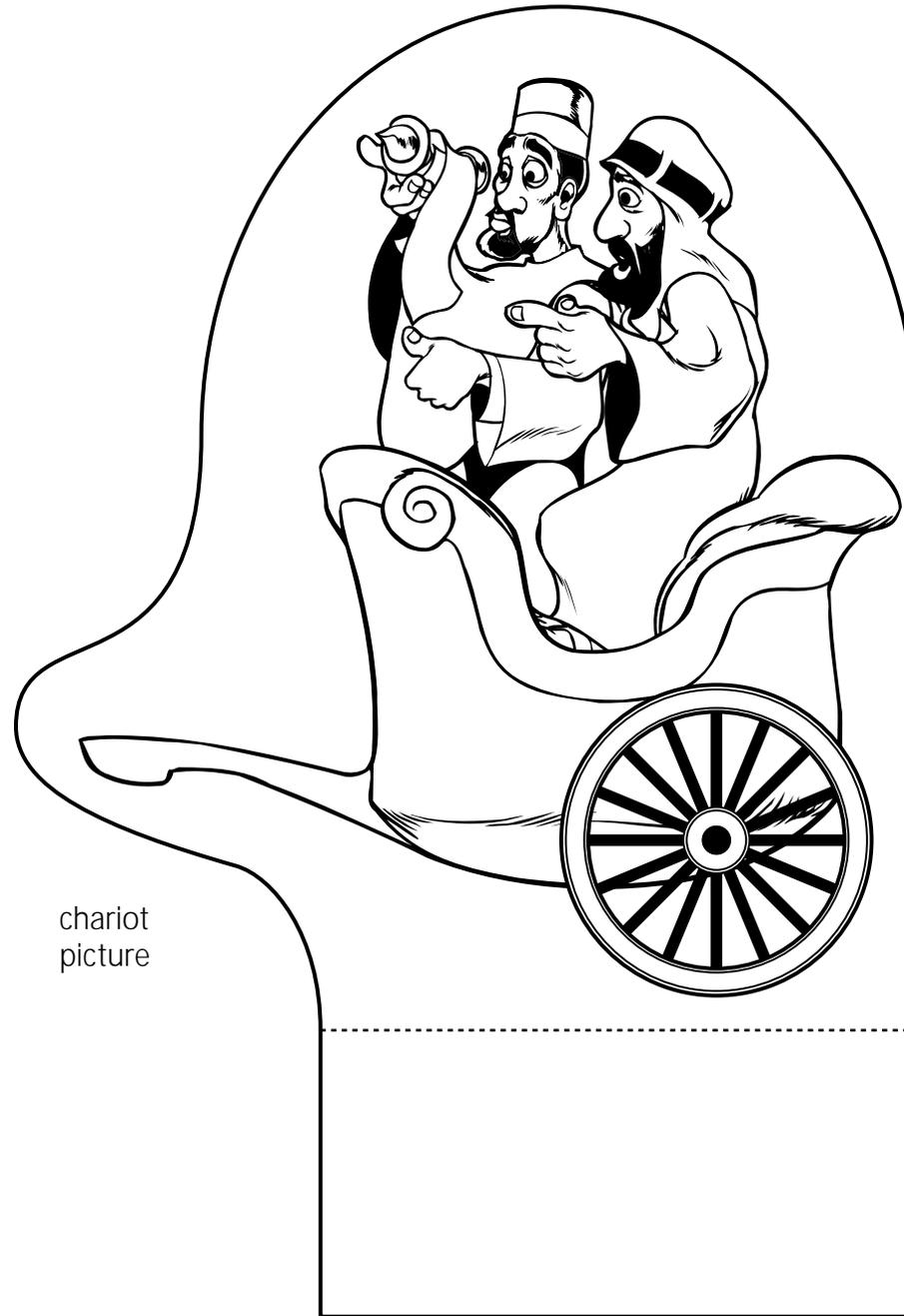
Read-Observe-Write

Page

C



Core/Craft  
1 copy for each child



chariot  
picture

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Page

**D**



CorSup/CentrNam

1 copy for each child

READ-OR-BU-BE

Page

5

4 and 5 Year Olds



Philip set out on a trip one day  
And met an Ethiopian along the way.

He taught him about Jesus and made him happy as can be.  
I'd love you to learn too, will you come to church with me?