

New Life

Lesson 3 and 4

Lesson 3- The Holy Spirit gives courage to Peter and John

The friends of Jesus were full of new life and could not stop telling everyone about Jesus. Their minds and hearts were full of all he had done and said.

When they went to the temple to pray they talked to people and crowds gathered round them. They helped the poor and the sick.

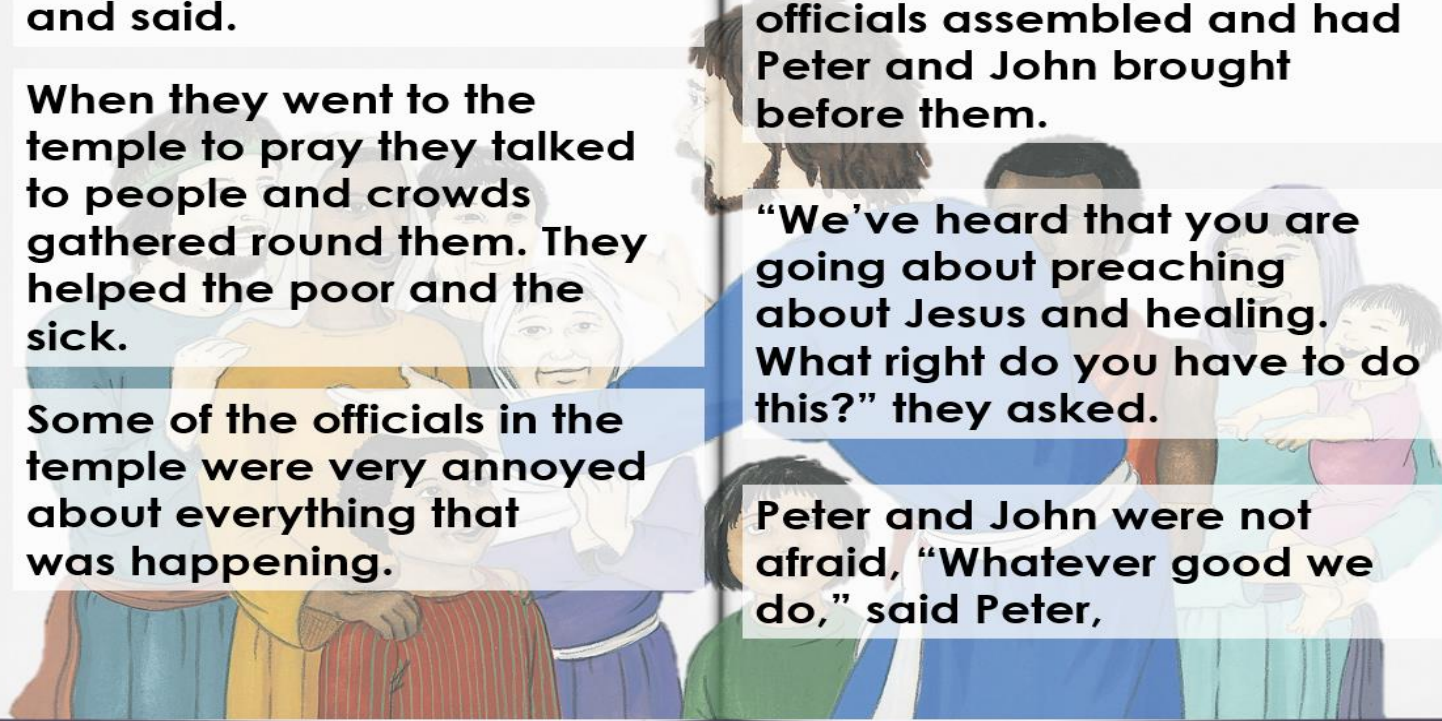
Some of the officials in the temple were very annoyed about everything that was happening.

One day they had Peter and John arrested and put them in prison.

The next day all the council officials assembled and had Peter and John brought before them.

"We've heard that you are going about preaching about Jesus and healing. What right do you have to do this?" they asked.

Peter and John were not afraid, "Whatever good we do," said Peter,



“we do in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. You crucified him, but God raised him from the dead.”

The whole council were amazed that two very ordinary men were not afraid, and were able to speak out boldly.

They discussed the matter, and then ordered the disciples never to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John were not frightened by any of their threats and said,

“We cannot keep silent about the great things that God has done. We have to spread the Good News of Jesus.”

The officials had to let them go because the people were so glad about what they were doing, and the officials did not want to risk a riot.

When Peter and John got back to the other disciples, everyone thanked God for their safety and the courage that the coming of the Holy Spirit had given them.

**Based on Acts 4:1-26
(God's Story 3)**

Think & discuss with family

- Why were the friends of Jesus full of new life?
- Why do you think the officials were annoyed?
- What happened to Peter and John?
- How do you think Peter and John felt when they were arrested?
- What did they say to the council?
- How did Peter and John show their courage to the officials?
- What would you have done? Why?

Your task

Prepare a set of questions for Peter and John to find out why they did what they did. If you can, get a member of your family to ask the questions and you role play as Peter or John.

Lesson 4- The Ethiopian receives the new life of Jesus

Philip was a follower of Jesus. One day he went walking on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza.

A chariot passed him. In it was an officer of the court of the Queen of Ethiopia.

This man was reading one of the books of the Bible: the book of the prophet Isaiah.

God's spirit spoke to Philip, saying, "Go to meet that chariot."

When he reached the chariot, Philip heard the Ethiopian reading the words of Isaiah:

"Do you understand what you are reading?" asked Philip.

"How can I understand unless I have someone to help me?" he replied. He asked Philip to help him.

"Come up here beside me," he said. Philip did as he asked.

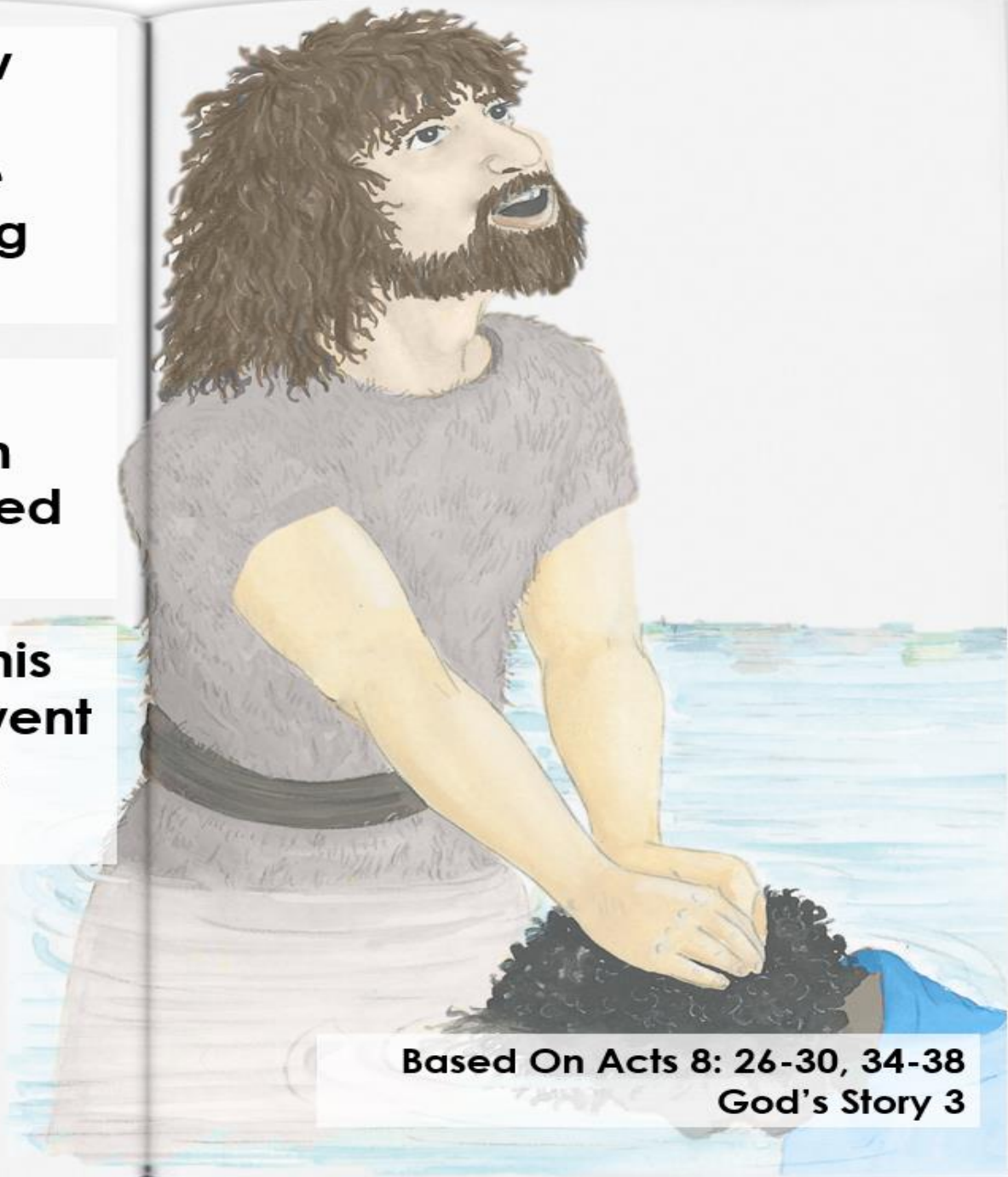
The Ethiopian said, "Who is this prophet talking about here?"

Philip explained that the passage was about Jesus and went on to tell him more of the Good News of Jesus.

A little further on they saw some water and the Ethiopian asked, “Is there anything to stop me being baptised?”

He stopped the chariot. Philip went down with him into the water and baptised him, there and then.

The Ethiopian continued his journey rejoicing. Philip went on telling the Good News everywhere he went.



**Based On Acts 8: 26-30, 34-38
God's Story 3**

Think and discuss

What happened to Philip on the way to Gaza?

How did Philip help the Ethiopian?

What do you think the Ethiopian meant when he said he needed help to read the Bible?

Why did the Ethiopian want to be baptised?

How did the Ethiopian feel then?



Your task

Imagine you are the Ethiopian. Write a letter to the Queen of Ethiopia to describe your encounter with Philip. Give reasons to show how this meeting gave you new life.





