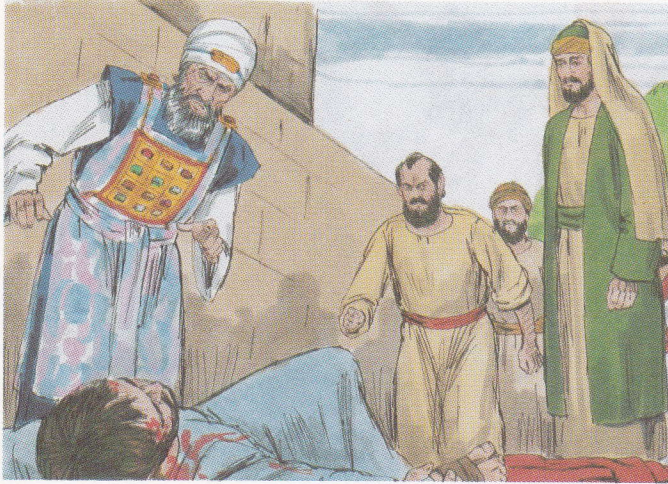
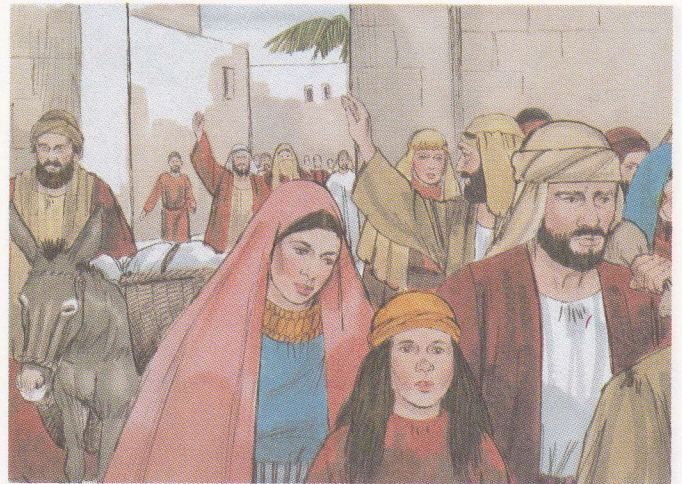


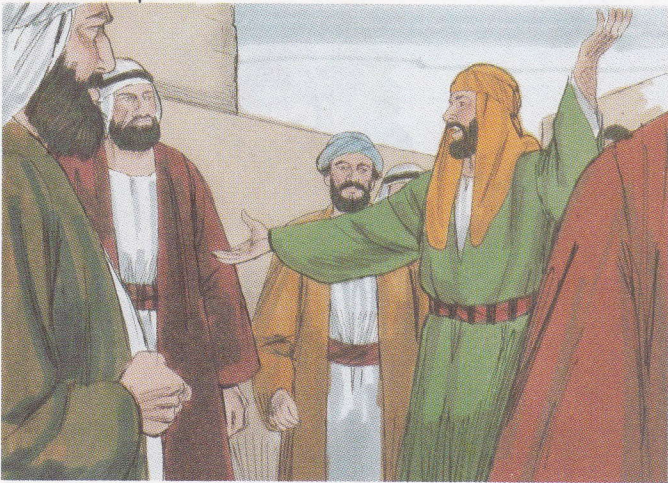
Philip Preaches in Samaria



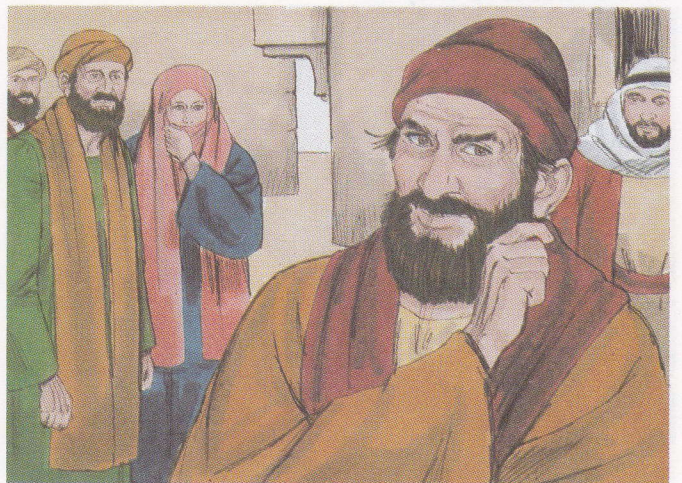
1 Beginning with the death of Stephen, a young man named Saul tried to destroy the church in Jerusalem. He went to the homes of the believers and dragged them off to prison.



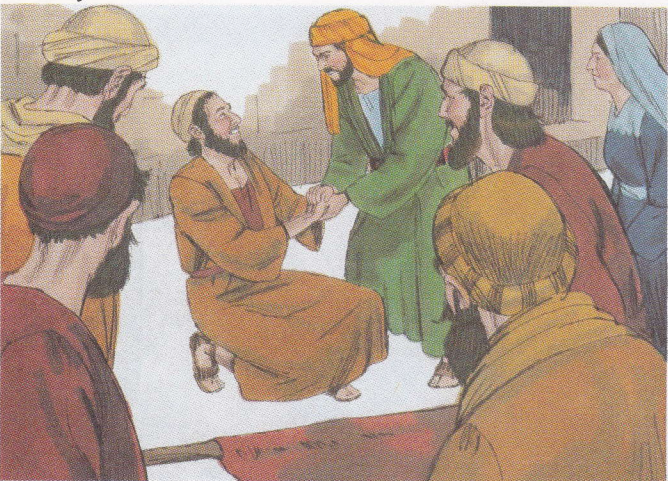
2 Many of the believers in Jerusalem fled to other places in Judea and Samaria. But wherever they went, they preached the word of God.



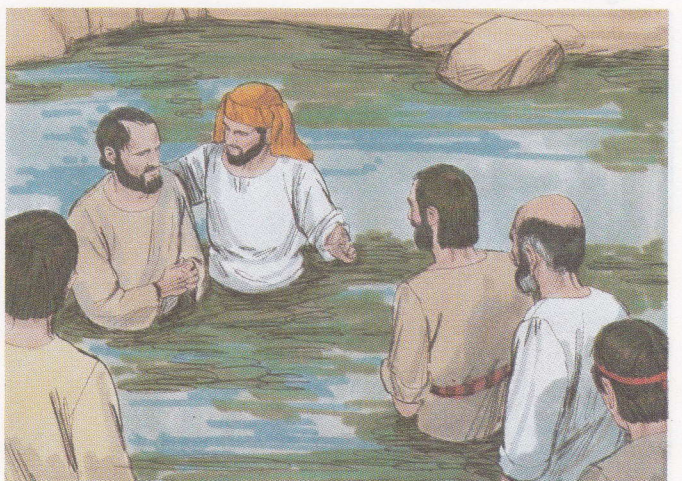
3 One of those who left Jerusalem at this time was Philip, one of the seven chosen to pass out food to the widows of the church in Jerusalem. He went to preach in a city of Samaria.



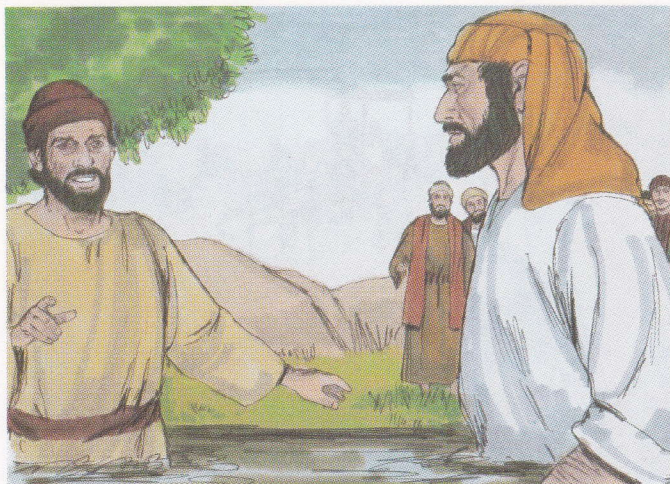
4 For some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in that city. He amazed all the people of Samaria, and they called him "The Great Power."



5 When Philip arrived, he not only preached but performed miracles. Many people who had been crippled or had evil spirits were healed.



6 The people who heard Philip preach the good news about Jesus Christ believed and were baptized.



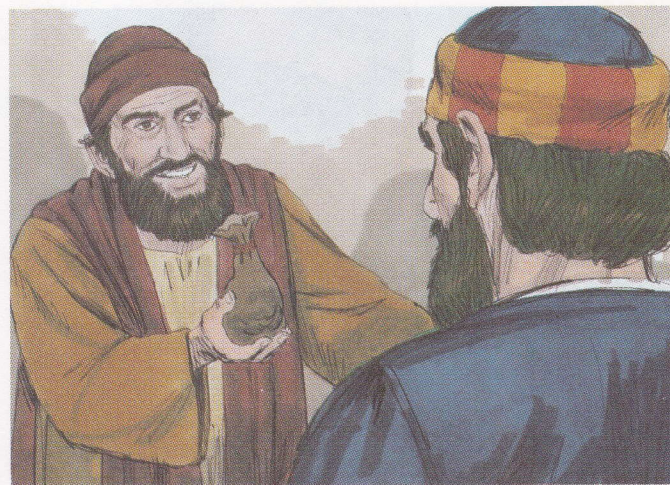
7 In fact, even Simon himself believed and was baptized. He followed Philip around everywhere, astonished by the great miracles which Philip performed.



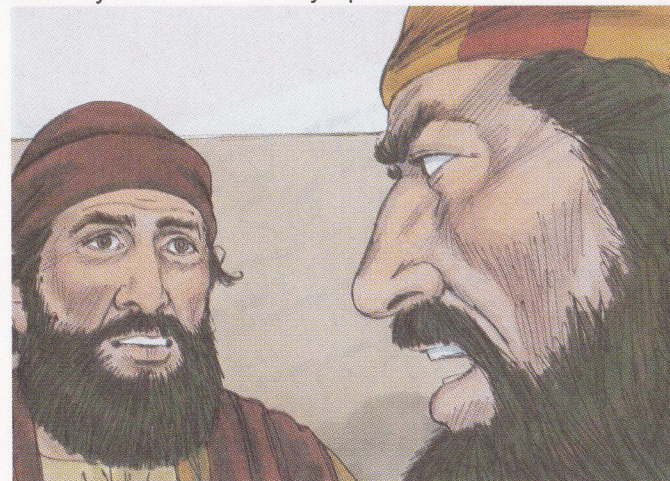
8 The apostles in Jerusalem heard that people in Samaria had accepted the word of God. So they sent Peter and John to them.



9 When they arrived, the two apostles found that the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them. So Peter and John prayed and placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



10 Simon, seeing that the Spirit was given by the laying on of the apostles' hands, offered them money. He said, "Give me this ability so that everyone I lay my hands on may receive the Spirit."



11 Peter replied, "You think you can buy God's gift with money? Your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness." "Pray for me," Simon said, "that the Lord will forgive me."



12 On their way back to Jerusalem, Peter and John preached in the villages of Samaria that they passed through. But Philip was told by an angel to go down to the road to Gaza.