**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, May 3, 2015**

**Sermon Title: Why Wait? --- 2nd & 3rd Grade Bibles, B90 Days Certificates**

**Scripture: Acts 8:26-40 *(New International Version)***

26Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” 30Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. 31“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: *“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”* 34The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” 35Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” 38And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 22**

Leader: From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

**People: The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him - may your hearts live forever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.

**All: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. All praise belongs to our great God!**

**Basic Theme: *Sometimes we need an explanation so that we can better understand the Good News of Jesus Christ. The eunuch was moved by the spirit that he could not wait to be baptized and profess this new-found faith in Jesus Christ, his savior.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): The whole of scripture points toward the Messiah, Jesus. Salvation is found in the Bible, the Living Word of God. The eunuch received Christ and desired to express his faith through baptism – he longed to have God’s grace poured out on him.**

**So What? Have you had an encounter with Jesus? Have you heard the truth of the Gospel, believed in Jesus and received the free gift of salvation? Have you been baptized? Why wait?**