

PHILIP AND SIMON THE SORCERER

New Testament Lesson #127

Philip was one of the seven men chosen to help the apostles care for the church in Jerusalem. When the Jews who had killed Stephen began persecuting the church in Jerusalem, Philip went to Samaria (sa-MAR-i-a), preaching the gospel. When people saw the signs and healings he did by the power of the Holy Spirit, they listened carefully to his preaching. Many believed what he taught about the kingdom of God and about Jesus and were baptized.

A man named Simon, who lived in that city, practiced sorcery and had the people convinced he was someone great. But then Simon also came to believe in Jesus, and was baptized. He followed Philip everywhere, amazed by the miracles he saw.

When Peter and John visited the believers in Samaria, they did two things. They prayed for those who had been baptized, and then they laid their hands on them so that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw this, he, too, wanted the ability to give to others the Holy Spirit. He even offered Peter money, thinking he could buy the gift.

Peter's reply was that the gifts of God are not for sale. He told Simon that he had no part of that ministry because his heart was not right with God, and that he should repent of "this wickedness" and pray so that he could be forgiven. Peter explained that he could see that Simon was bitter and captive to sin. Simon asked Peter to pray for him that no bad things would happen to him.

After Peter and John taught the people there, they went back to Jerusalem. On the way back, they preached the Good News of Jesus to Samaritan villages.

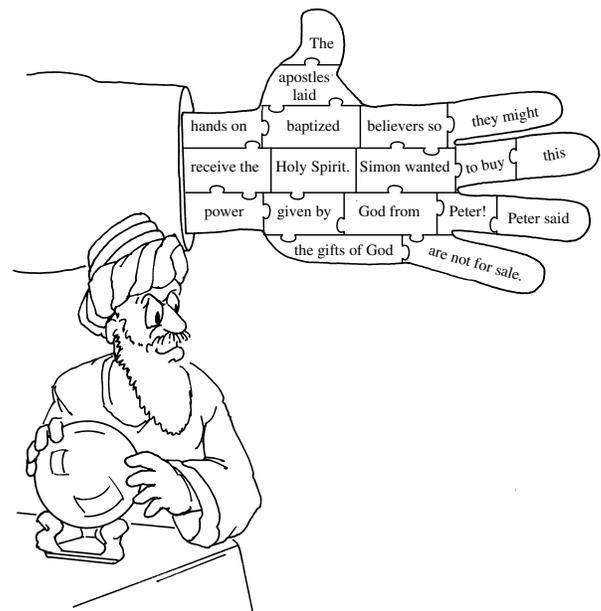
POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Simon wanted more than the gift of the Holy Spirit — he also wanted the ability to pass it on to others. This might have stemmed from his past dealings with sorcery and his fascination with miracles.

Philip and Simon the Sorcerer

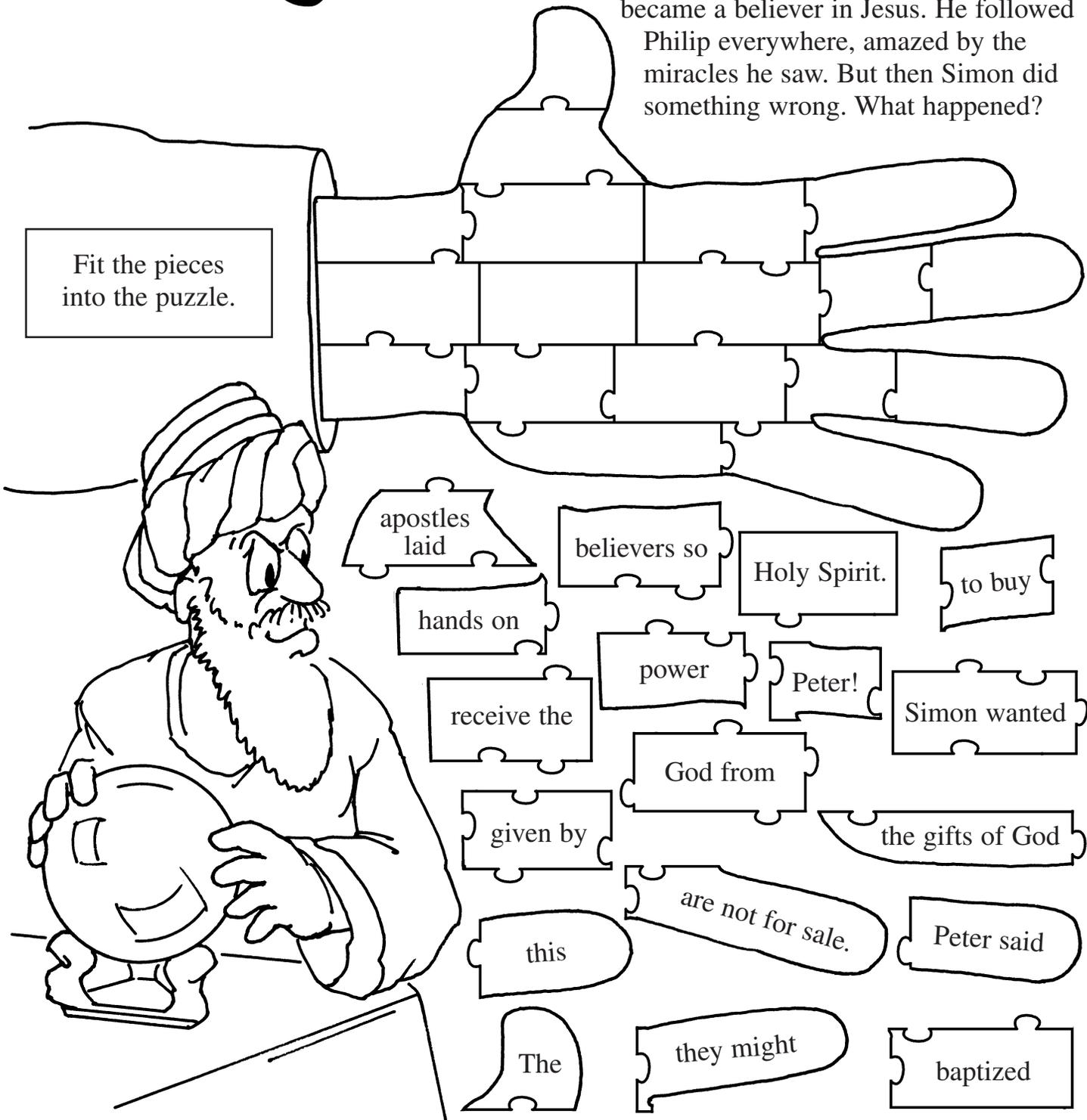
- I. Philip helped the apostles by preaching the gospel in Samaria.
 - A. People believed him and were baptized.
 - B. Simon, who was a magician and believed in Jesus, followed Philip everywhere.
- II. Peter and John visited Samaria.
 - A. They prayed for those who were baptized.
 - B. They laid their hands on them so the believers would receive the Holy Spirit.
- III. Simon wanted the ability to give the Holy Spirit to others, and offered money to Peter for this ability.
 - A. Peter rejected Simon's request and his money, saying that God's gifts were not for sale.
 - B. He told Simon to repent of his wickedness.
 - C. Simon asked Peter to pray for him.

ANSWER KEY:



Simon was a sorcerer in Samaria. He heard Philip teaching and became a believer in Jesus. He followed Philip everywhere, amazed by the miracles he saw. But then Simon did something wrong. What happened?

Fit the pieces into the puzzle.

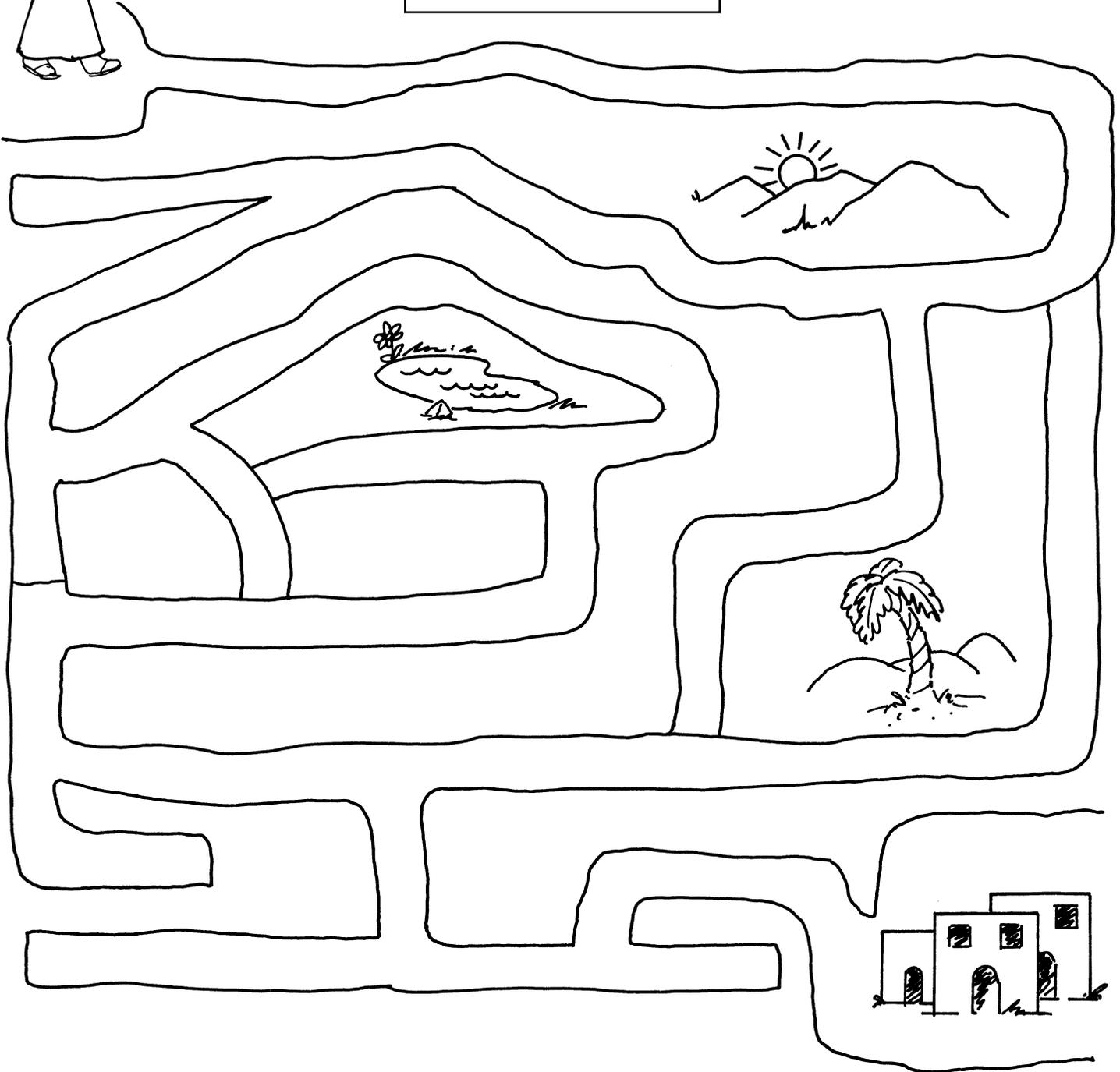


Name _____

Philip went to Samaria to teach, preach, heal and baptize.



Follow the path.



Name _____