

The Week in the Word

Acts Study #14: Philip and the Ethiopian

Passage: Acts 8:26-40

Sermon Dates: May 3-4

Study Period: (April 29-May 2)

Link Group Meetings: May 5-10

We have seen how the Gospel reached Samaria through the ministries of Philip, John and Peter, as they preached in the Samaritan villages. This fulfilled part of Acts 1:8 which said that they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and SAMARIA. But the next part of the verse says that the Gospel was to go to the “ends of the earth.” This passage shows how the Gospel started reaching into Africa (the ends of the earth) through Philip’s ministry. It also shows us lessons about God’s leading in our lives, about obedience, and about witnessing.

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1. What conditions at your work would cause you to think that God was leading you to change jobs?
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2. **Read Acts 8: 26-40.** In Acts 8:26 the Lord gives Philip some marching orders. Where was Philip, what was he doing, and how was his ministry going when the Lord directed Him? (8:5-6)
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3. Look carefully at the initial instructions that the Lord gives Philip (8:26). If you received only these instructions, where exactly would you go? What would you be thinking, worrying about or wondering as you considered these instructions?
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4. To get a better picture of this setting, check a Palestine map to find out where Gaza, Azotus, and Samaria are. Figure distances between each of them. The Ethiopian was from the Nile region. What was he doing way up in this area? (8:27-28) Where was he heading now?
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5. What was the Ethiopian doing as he rode in his chariot? (8:28)
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6. Why did Philip have to run (8:30)? Why was he told to “stay near” the chariot?
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7. How much time do you think Philip had to respond to the Lord’s prompting?

8. How did Philip open the conversation with the Ethiopian? (8:30) What “openers” have you used in sharing the Gospel with people?

9. Describe the attitude of the Ethiopian (8:31)

10. **Read 8:32-33.** Where in the Bible (Ch. and Verses) do you find this passage that the Eunuch was reading? What is that passage talking about?

11. **Read 8:34-35.** What didn't the Eunuch understand (8:34)?

12. Where did Philip begin in his witnessing? Where did he end? (8:35) What principle(s) do you see here that could help you in your witnessing?

13. **Read 8:36-40.** What exactly happened to Philip here (8:39-40)?

14. What was the response of the Eunuch to the events of the day (8:39)?

15. Why do you think Philip was such a useable tool in God's hands? What areas in your life would you need to adjust in order to be more useable?