



Life Group Study Questions*

Sent - Part 8 (Acts 8:26-40) "A Missionary's Method"

Describe the most unusual or unexpected situation in which you had a conversation about Jesus. Who initiated the conversation? Why was it so unexpected?

What description would you use to characterize your awareness of God at work around you? What are some ways that awareness shapes your intentionality with others?

How does knowing that God orchestrates our conversations about Jesus inform the way you view your relationships and everyday encounters?

In this week's session, we will consider Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian official as a model for the sometimes unexpected ways that God leads us into Jesus conversations with others.

Have a volunteer read Acts 8:26-28.

This section in Luke's account marks the second time the reader meets Philip. The first introduction to Philip's apostolic ministry occurs earlier in Acts 8:4-13. Due to the persecution that broke out against the church led by Saul of Tarsus, many believers fled from Jerusalem, including Philip. As they did, they took the gospel of Jesus with them, teaching and preaching along the way. Philip went to Samaria, in no small part because the Jewish men who were persecuting the church would resist going to Samaria at all cost. When Philip arrived in Samaria and began preaching Jesus, many of the Samaritans believed. This was the state of ministry for Philip at the point when God called him and sent him to the road between Jerusalem and Gaza.

How do you think you would have responded in Philip's situation—being called to leave a thriving, fruitful ministry season to go stand next to a desert road? Why do you say so? How have you seen similar responses in your journey with God up until this point?

How would you describe Philip's awareness of God's moving around him? Why was that particularly important in what we learn of Philip in Acts?

* For quality discussion take time to answer all questions as thoroughly as possible

Have a volunteer read Acts 8:29-33.

Notice how Philip began the conversation with a simple question of what he knew about the official. How do you feel most natural in initiating conversations about Jesus with others?

What does the set of circumstances that Philip walked into tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our conversations about Jesus? Why is that especially encouraging?

It would be incorrect to assume that every conversation a believer has with someone about Jesus will proceed along the same lines as Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian official. The main thing to be gleaned from these verses is how much the Holy Spirit guided and orchestrated the entire encounter. This particular aspect is the same for every conversation a believer has with someone about Jesus.

Have a volunteer read Acts 8:34-36.

The reason Philip was chosen for this particular moment is evidenced in the response to the Ethiopian official's question. Beginning with the text that they read together, Philip was able to use that same prophetic Scripture to share the gospel of Jesus.

What does Philip's response indicate about the importance of knowing God's Word?

Describe the last time you shared the gospel with someone, whether they accepted Christ or not. What Scripture passages did you find especially helpful? Were there any questions that you felt uneasy answering?

APPLICATION

While routine is a good thing in many ways, it can make us resistant to following God's promptings that take us out of routine. With that in mind, how interruptible would you say you are? Do you look for ways to follow God throughout your day?

There was no way Philip could have guessed that he would spend part of the day in the chariot of an Ethiopian official. Why is it important to free ourselves from those "we usually talk to" for the sake of the gospel? When was the last time you deliberately spoke to someone whom God prompted you to speak to?

PRAYER

Pray that those in your group would grow in their flexibility to break routine whenever God prompts. Pray also that God would create a desire in them to prepare to talk about Jesus with others in a way that is confident and compassionate. Pray specifically for their upcoming "surprise" interactions this week.

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