

## **“Guided by the Spirit”**

*Acts 8:26-40*

Have you ever been led to talk with a stranger about the gospel? Perhaps, as you were sitting next to someone on a plane or bus and struck up a conversation, the Holy Spirit prodded you to talk to them about Jesus. Philip was guided by the Spirit to talk with a stranger about Jesus in today story. His encounter with the Ethiopian official gives us an example of when & how to talk about Jesus with people God brings across your life path.

### **Introductory Question** – Choose one

**Q<sup>1</sup>** – What has prompted you or hindered you from talking to others about Jesus?

**Q<sup>2</sup>** – Have you ever asked a person questions about their religion? What did you learn (neg. or pos.) from their reaction and/or response?

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) **Read Acts 8:26-40.** How did Philip know *where* he should go and *why* he should go there? How did he know what he was supposed to do when he got there?
- 2) What do we learn about the stranger in the chariot (vv.27-28)? How did Philip know what he was supposed to do (v.29) and say (v.30)?
- 3) How did God pave the way for his message and his messenger?<sup>1</sup>
- 4) What passage of Scripture was the eunuch reading and how does it relate to the Jesus story (read ?
- 5) Imagine that you are Philip. How might you use the Isaiah passage to begin telling the man the good news about Jesus (vv.32-35)?
- 6) In Acts 17<sup>28</sup>, Paul even used points of contact within their own culture to point people to God. What God connections have you encountered in a recent story, book, movie, or show that could be used to point people to God’s grand story and/or to Jesus? Explain.
- 7) Deep down, do you think successful VIPs (like a minister of finance) need to hear the gospel as much as someone who is poor and/or oppressed (Acts 3<sup>2</sup>)? Why or why not?
- 8) In addition to providing the official the *explanation* he asked for, what indication is there that Philip also offered him an *invitation* to make a personal response?
- 9) Circumstances made discipling this new convert impossible, but what spiritual resources did he take with him back to Ethiopia?<sup>2</sup> Who or what has been most helpful in helping you know Jesus & grow in your faith?

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<sup>1</sup> What was unusual was what he was reading, not that he was reading out loud, because everybody read aloud in those days.

<sup>2</sup> While there is no explicit mention of the eunuch being filled with the Spirit, there is such a close association of the Holy Spirit with “joy” and “rejoicing” in the NT (e.g. Acts 13<sup>52</sup>; 16<sup>34</sup>; Gal. 5<sup>22</sup>; Rom. 14<sup>17</sup>; Lk. 10<sup>21</sup>; 1 Thess. 1<sup>6</sup>) that many consider the eunuch’s “rejoicing” as a synonym for his receiving the Holy Spirit. (David Ewert, The HS in the NT, p. 103)