

# **“Philip: Sharing God’s Message”**

*November 12 & 13, 2016 | Heroes Series #4*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This weekend we celebrated baptisms in our services at New Life. There are many accounts of baptisms in the New Testament. One of the most memorable was performed by the hero we study this week: Philip. Philip responded to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him and served in the early church in Acts. He traveled throughout the region sharing the good news and was known as “the evangelist” (Acts 21:8-9). This study will focus on how Philip spread the message of the Gospel, and consider how we too can share God’s message with those who need to hear it.

**Ice Breaker (Optional):** How did you first hear the message of the Gospel?

## **Study Questions (45 MIN)**

**Listen: Discern the Spirit’s promptings**

**Q1. Read Acts 8:26 -29; 1 Kings 19:11-12**

Philip was attentive to the promptings of God’s Spirit. In Acts 8:26 and 29 we are told that God “said” something to him. But God’s promptings are not always audible. In 1 Kings 19 Elijah hears God speak, but then must discern from amongst wind, earthquakes, fires and a whisper. What are some of the ways God has spoken to you most clearly? What have you found to be “competing noises” that make it hard to discern God’s still small voice? What have you done, or could you do, to increase your ability to hear God?

**Walk: Leave your comfort zone**

**Q2. Read Acts 8:29-30; Acts 10:19-23**

Philip had been successful preaching in Samaria, but God called him to a different place. How does Acts 8:26 describe the place he was called to go? Why might Philip “the evangelist” doubt that this was indeed the place God would send him to preach the Gospel? In Acts chapter 10 Peter is called by God to go to the home of a Gentile, an unlikely place for a Jew to enter. How did God confirm to Peter that this was indeed God’s calling? Has God ever prompted you to go somewhere outside of your comfort zone? If so, how did it turn out?

**Talk: Open a spiritual conversation**

**Q3. Read Acts 8:30-35; 1 Peter 3:15; Luke 12:11-12**

Philip’s obedience to God’s leading created an opportunity for him to engage in a “spiritual conversation.” What was the circumstance that made it easy to initiate a spiritual conversation with the Ethiopian? Can you think of a time that sharing your faith was made easy because of the circumstances? What are some clues you might recognize that indicate the time is right to strike up a spiritual conversation? Peter tells us to always be prepared to defend the reason for the hope we have. What is one thing that can help you to prepare yourself for defending your faith?

**Act: Encourage next steps, and repeat**

**Q4. Read Acts 8:36-40**

The eyes of the Ethiopian were opened by Philip’s discussion of the Scriptures, but it didn’t end there. His newfound faith prompted what next step? What follow up steps might you suggest to someone you share your faith with? Philip’s mission didn’t end with this encounter. What do we find Philip doing in Acts 8:40?

## **Wrap-Up**

God called Philip to leave his comfort zone and strike up a spiritual conversation in a most unlikely place. But Philip was obedient to God’s prompting and found himself witnessing in the desert to a man seeking to understand God’s Word. God may have a unique spiritual mission for you as well. If you listen for God’s promptings, leave your comfort zone, and open a conversation, He can use you to spread his message, and encourage others on their spiritual journeys.

## **Memory Verse**

*“... do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11b-12 NASB*

## **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

## **Challenge:**

*Expect an opportunity from God to share your faith this week, and when you recognize the time is right, take it.*

**Q1**

Acts 8:26-29 ESV - 26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

1 Kings 19:11-12 ESV - 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

## Q2

Acts 8: 29-30 ESV - 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Read Acts 10:17-23 in your Bible

### Q3

Acts 8:30-35 ESV - 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

1 Peter 3:15 ESV - 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

### Q4

Acts 8:36-40 NKJV - 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, [here is] water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.