

Sharing God's Message

Sharing God's message can include telling the "good news" about Jesus dying for our sins; giving a word of instruction, encouragement or admonition; or showing compassion in Jesus' name.

- **Day One. Hearing God's voice**

Read 1Samuel 3:1-11; 1Kings 19:11-12

What has been your experience learning to recognize God's voice? Think of a time when you felt God was speaking to you. Describe your thoughts, emotions, sensations. What was the "spiritual" dimension to the prompting? Do you think your sensitivity to God's voice has increased over time? What have you done, or could you do, to increase your ability to hear God?

Pray. Ask God to show you how you can become more sensitive to hearing his voice.

- **Day Two. Stepping into the "unknown zone"**

Read Acts 8:27-30

We often hear the phrase "the fear of the unknown." When it comes to "divine missions,"—where God prompts you to do something—what are you most often afraid of? How does knowing that God is with you help overcome fear? What are some other ways to overcome fear?

Pray. Ask God to give you the courage to step into the "unknown zone."

- **Day Three. Having spiritual conversations**

Read Acts 8:30-35

How often do you discuss spiritual things with others? What things tend to increase the proportion of spiritual conversation in your life? Do you have any "spiritual questions" prepared to ask? How prepared are you to give answers to spiritual questions others may ask you?

Pray. Ask God to show you how to increase the level of spiritual conversation in your life.

New Life Lessons
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Pastor Dave Vasquez

Philip: Sharing God's Message

Acts 8:26-40

Acts 8:26-40 (NIV) ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Philip the Evangelist

One of “the seven” (Acts 6:1-7) • Preached in Samaria (Acts 8:5-8)
Called “the evangelist” (Acts 21:8-9)

How can we share God’s message?

1. Listen: Discern the Spirit’s promptings

Acts 8:26, 29 (NIV) ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza...” ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Acts 16:7-10; 1Samuel 3:1-11

1Kings 19:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ ... Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

John 10:27 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

2. Walk: Step into the “unknown zone”

Acts 8:27 (NIV) ³⁰ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians... ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

Romans 3:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.”

John 6:44 (NIV) ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. Talk: Open a spiritual conversation

QUESTION: **Acts 8:30** (NIV) ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

ANSWER: **Acts 8:34-35** (NIV) ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

1Peter 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

Luke 12:11-12 (TLB) ¹¹ “And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don’t worry about what to say in your defense, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you what needs to be said even as you are standing there.” Nehemiah 2:4

4. Act: Encourage next steps

Acts 8:36-40 (NIV) ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

5. Repeat: Do it again

Acts 8:40 (NIV) ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.