



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

### ACTS 8:26-40 / November 4

Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts! Today we're studying again in chapter 8. Last week, we met Philip, who traveled to Samaria to tell about the Gospel of Jesus. The sermon on Sunday continued the story of Philip, studying his encounter with an Ethiopian man in a chariot in Acts 8:26-40.

- What parts of that story have resonated the most with you since Sunday? Why?

Today, we will revisit that same story, with a focus on five characteristics that made Philip a good evangelist (one who tells the Good News of Jesus to others).

**First, let's talk about evangelizing** (or living on mission). Is it easy or difficult for you to tell someone about the Gospel of Jesus? What reasons do we have for not actively being personal evangelists?

Here are five characteristics from Acts 8:26-40 that made Philip a good evangelist. Let's see how we might imitate him as we tell others the Good News.

#### **Philip was available.**

- What does it mean to be "available" to God?
- Read Acts 8:26-27. How does Philip demonstrate his availability to be on mission? (*He is listening for God to speak, ready to obey quickly, etc.*)
- What are some practical ways that you can be available to God to evangelize?

#### **Philip was eager.**

- What does "eager" mean? What is the opposite of "eager"? (*Hesitant, unwilling, half-hearted.*) From "unwilling" to "eager," how would you describe your willingness to tell someone about the Gospel of Jesus? Why?
- Read Acts 8:29-30. How does Philip demonstrate his eagerness to be on mission?
- Why do you think Philip "ran"? Can you think of other examples in the Bible when people run? (*Matthew 8:28, Luke 15:20, John 20:3-4, Acts 12:14*)
- What are some practical ways that you can be more eager to evangelize?

#### **Philip was intentional.**

- What does it mean to be intentional about something? (*Done on purpose, preplanned.*)
- Read Acts 8:30-35. In what was Philip being intentional? (*He is boldly approaching the man, asking the first question, directing the conversation toward the Gospel, etc.*)
- What might have happened in this story if Philip was not intentional about being on mission?
- What are some practical ways that you can be more intentional about telling the Gospel to others?

**Philip was prepared.**

- Read Acts 8:35. How had Philip prepared to be on mission, based on this verse?
- What are some practical ways that you can prepare for evangelism? (*Rehearse the Gospel to yourself and with others, read and study the Bible, write down your own story of first believing in the Gospel, memorize Scripture, etc.*)

**Philip was Jesus-centered.**

- Look at the passage the Ethiopian is reading (verses 32-33). Does it say the word "Jesus"? Now read Acts 8:35 again. What do we learn from Philip's example? (*All of the Bible is telling one story — the story of the Gospel, how God loves sinners and saves them from sin and death through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.*)
- How could Philip's conversation been different on this day if he had not be Jesus-centered? What other things could they have talked about?
- Instead of being Jesus-centered, what else do we sometimes focus on when we have opportunities to evangelize? (*Being good and nice, attending church, believing in God, etc.*)
- Why is it essential in evangelism to ultimately tell others about Jesus? Can people become Christians without knowing the Gospel of Jesus?
- What are some practical ways that you can be more Jesus-centered?

**Close in prayer.** Pray specifically that God would allow you to tell others the Gospel of Jesus. Pray that you would be available, eager, intentional, prepared, and Jesus-centered!

## KIDS FOCUS

**The story of Acts in the Bible tells about Philip told a man traveling in a chariot about the Good News of Jesus!** Philip was an evangelist! What is an evangelist? (An evangelist is someone who tells the Good News of Jesus to others.)

**Philip was ready and excited to tell about Jesus.**

- Read Acts 8:26-30. How can you tell that Philip was ready and excited to tell about Jesus?
- Why do you think Philip ran in this story? What sort of things make you run to talk to someone else about?
- Why is Jesus so exciting to talk about? What did Jesus do?

**Philip spoke boldly about the Good News of Jesus.**

- The man in the chariot was reading from the Old Testament in the Bible, but he didn't understand it. Philip offers to help him!
- Read Acts 8:34-35. What does Philip talk to the man about? What is the Good News about Jesus? (*Jesus died on a cross and rose back to life to save us from our sin and from death!*)
- Do you believe that Good News about Jesus? If so, is there someone you know who you can tell about Jesus? How can you be like Philip in today's story?

**Close in prayer.** Pray that you might be excited about Jesus like Philip and be bold to tell someone about the Gospel!