

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Your Love Awakens Me, Great Things, God is Able, How Great is Our God, Make Me A Blessing

WELCOME

Share the most recent good news you or your family received. Now think about the greatest news you have ever received or could ever receive in your life. Would you want to be the one who shares this greatest news to your family, friends and others?

WORD

ACTS 8:34–40

³⁴ *The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?"* ³⁵ *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.* ³⁶ *As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"* ³⁷ *And 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 *And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.* ³⁹ *When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.* ⁴⁰ *But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.*

We all want to live a life of significance – a life full of purpose and meaning. PURPOSE is important because it determines our priorities. In the Christian life, we see God's purpose for us clearly given through the command to SHARE the GOSPEL and MAKE DISCIPLES.

Philip, like Stephen, was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve and minister to the growing church. While Stephen had a remarkable moment to declare his faith in Jesus which led to his martyrdom, there were other believers like Philip whose story will serve as inspiration for all of us who are living "ordinary lives" today to embrace whatever God puts in our way – blessings and challenges to make Christ known to others.

1. IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

We see in the life of Philip and the early church that problems and circumstances can become platforms to spread the good news.

Acts 8:3-4 tells of the dispersion of the believers because of persecution after Stephen's death. Prior to this, the church was growing in numbers meeting in small groups, enjoying fellowship and study of Scriptures, but they failed to bring the gospel to areas outside their city contrary to God's command in **Acts 1:8**. God allowed adversity in the lives of the believers to send them out of their comfort zone and preach the gospel everywhere they went.

Now if this happens to you, what will your attitude be like? You may ask "Where is GOD?" or "Why is this happening?" And while difficult situations spark

questions like these, our comfort is the truth that GOD is able to work in all circumstances to accomplish His purpose. As history unfolded, we see the believers go out and start preaching the word and evangelizing others! God knows what He is doing. We can be courageous in accomplishing what God commanded us because in **Acts 1:8**, we are reminded to be empowered by the Spirit!

2. TO ALL PEOPLE

The second lesson we see in the story of Philip unfolded in **Acts 8:4-24**. It shows us that GOD intends for all people to hear the good news. Philip was an ordinary man; but he was also so full of the Spirit, and he wanted to share the truth about Jesus, even to SAMARIA, a land whose people were considered impure and inferior by the Jews.

The Samaritans were a mixed race, intermarrying with foreigners and are therefore considered to be Gentiles and avoided by the Jews. But our task, to be a blessing to others, is to look beyond our personal differences and let the light of Christ shine (**Matthew 5:16**) that **all men** may know the gospel.

Acts 8:9-24 highlights an important point about the Christian life. We are introduced to Simon the Magician, an example of how people can acknowledge Jesus and be baptized, and yet their hearts aren't fully submitted to GOD.

In **Acts 8:20-23**, Peter, who has gone to Samaria to minister to the people that Philip previously had evangelized, rebuked Simon the Magician because his heart **was not right before God**.

WORD (cont'd)

We might be like Simon. We may perform all the external Christian behavior but there is no real transformation. Our goal is to make sure our lives are transformed by the grace and power of Jesus, and lead others to Jesus Christ through the gospel.

3. TO ALL PEOPLE

The story of Philip eventually takes us to **Acts 8:25-40**. We see Philip's sensitivity to the prodding and leading of the Spirit, and that after his ministry in Samaria, he was led by an angel of the Lord to go south on the road that leads to Gaza – a desert road (**Acts 8:25-26**).

We learn that God sends Philip there to meet an Ethiopian eunuch who was returning to his land from worshipping in Jerusalem. Look at the timing of GOD: this eunuch was reading from the prophet Isaiah, and Philip was given the opportunity to introduce this person to Jesus through Scripture (**Acts 8:30-35**). Philip also had the privilege to

baptize the Ethiopian eunuch. Afterwards, Philip continued preaching and evangelizing all the way to Caesarea. He ministered to others with the gospel, but he did not forget his family. **Acts 21:8-9** shows how Philip the Evangelist had daughters who were prophetesses, serving the Lord through their spiritual gifting.

Are we like Philip who devoted his time and effort to the work of God to bless other people, and more importantly, his family?

A quote from **C. T. Studd** goes like this: **“Only one life, twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last”**.

Nothing that happens to us is wasted if we do all things for God's glory. As we continue living a life of obedience and surrender, may we be used by God to be salt and light to others who need to hear the greatest news of hope – the gospel of Jesus Christ!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. What inspired you most about the life of Philip the evangelist? How do you see yourself in the context of sharing the gospel to other people? Are you able, like Philip, to do it in all circumstances, to all people, and all the time?
2. Reflect upon the many times the Lord has prodded you to share your faith with other people. What has been stopping you? What concerns hold you down? Pray to the Lord and surrender these and ask that you be filled and empowered to share and become a blessing.
3. Where is God sending you to speak the truth about Jesus? Is it a member of your family, a friend, an officemate? What can you do start becoming a blessing to these specific people?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Be a blessing, share the gospel! This week, seek for opportunities to share the gospel to at least one person you have been praying for in the past few weeks. God may also lead you to share Christ to someone not in your prayer list, so be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends