

Acts 8.4-40

The Good News of Jesus is spreading beyond the traditional Jewish centers and ways of life. We first meet Philip back in Acts 6.5 as one of the seven Deacons tasked with helping take care of the Greek widows. Now with the persecution in Jerusalem he along with others have spread out into non-typical Jewish areas. The animosity between Samaria and Israel ran deep. Yet Philip proclaims the Messiah to them and does many signs.

Philip follows the direction of an angel of the Lord and travels down a desert road toward Gaza. The Spirit tells Philip to go and join an Ethiopian Eunuch on his chariot. This eunuch just happens to be reading from Isaiah 53 and so Philip proclaims the Good News of Jesus again.

Philip may seem like the all-star follower of Jesus, something we can never attain. But Philip simply followed the Spirit's guidance and nudges in his life. He interacted with people who were eager and seeking God, and he simply explained Jesus to them. We tend to make evangelism too complicated. We hit our heads against the wall when people are not ready or interested in listening. Philip doesn't share the Good News with folks who don't want to hear it. Rather, he partners with what the Holy Spirit was already doing in people's lives.

This is something each of us can do. We can pray for God's Spirit to lead us to people who are open and honestly seeking God, but just need a little encouragement and guidance. As you reflect on the life of Philip here in Acts 8, ask God to reveal to you the people in your life who might be seeking God but need a nudge and encouragement. Pray if God might use you in this relationship. Pray to be responsive to the Spirit's leading in your life. Prayer isn't just talking to God, but having a conversation, listening for what God might be saying to you. Allow space for God to speak in your prayer life today.

Conversation Starters:

What does the church look like in Acts? Who is a part of it? What do they do? How is it formed?

How does God's mission unfold in Acts? How does this relate to the church and the Spirit?

What does the Spirit do? How is the Spirit active? How does it relate to Zion and Zion's participation in God's mission in Warroad and beyond?