



THE BOOK OF

ACTS

GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 8: Here's Water

SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series, we examine the remarkable spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth...and how we fit into the story God is continuing to write through His Church.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group!

CONNECTION

Philip preached on Philip. But there are also two Philips who are part of the early church in the New Testament. Philip, one of the 12, and then this Philip, one of the 7 chosen by the Apostles to initially help carry out administrative tasks. Have you ever shared a name with someone in class, on a team, or at work? Take some time to share about sharing a name with someone else.

TRUTH

Read Acts 8:4-8. What stands out to you from the text? Why is that significant?

As the church grew and persecution forced believers to scatter, the church only grew faster. What were the hallmarks of healthy church growth then? Are they the same now? Share your thoughts.

Continue reading Acts 8:26-28. What was the significance of the Ethiopian eunuch's journey to Jerusalem? Why did he go there?

Why do you think Philip was sent to meet the Ethiopian eunuch? What was his mission? Do you think you would have been as obedient as Philip was to "leave the 99 for the 1?" What makes that so challenging?

Read Acts 8:29-35. What is the significance of the passage that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah? How did Philip explain it to him?

What does this section of scripture tell us about God? About people?

Philip started the conversation with a question. We shared how that's a simple way to find common ground. What are some good, thoughtful questions you could sincerely ask other people?

Verse 35 says that "Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus."

Read 1 Peter 3:15. How does this connect to Philip's actions? How does that practically play out in our lives? Do you have any examples?

What does this story tell us about the importance of baptism in the Christian faith? Why did the Ethiopian eunuch want to be baptized? What was his motivation?

APPLICATION

What does this story tell us about the inclusivity of the Christian faith - that hope is for everyone? How is that message presented in light of the exclusivity of the claim of Christ - that He is the only way? Have you ever felt that tension?

How does this story relate to our lives today? What lessons can we learn from it? Though we can complicate things quickly, remember the simple formula seen in Philip's life: *God leads + _____ follows = God uses _____*

What role does evangelism play in the Christian faith? We encouraged followers of Jesus to *be ready, be bold, and be patient*. Those are identifiable in the way Philip shared with the Ethiopian. With that in mind, how can we share the gospel message with others in a way that is respectful and effective?

PRAYER

How can we become more open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, like Philip was in this story? Spend some time sharing and then close in praying for this very thing: *that we do become more open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.*