

# Small Group Notes

---

## **Do Something Significant.**

### **1. The Significance of Gods Voice**

#### **God Spoke to Philip**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”<sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian<sup>[a]</sup> eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,<sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

Two points here,

Firstly, God spoke to Philip and he was told to do something.

Secondly, Philip was willing to be obedient and follow through what God had asked him.

We need to be obedient to the prompting of the Spirit, those divine moments, those out of the ordinary thoughts, the prompt to connect and chat with someone those moments when we should engage. Something significant might happen.

Philip is directed to do something significant and I’m sure he was surprised by where the Spirit took him or and who the Spirit took him to.

**Q. How does God speak to you and have you ever felt the prompting of the Spirit to talk to someone?**

#### **The Ethiopian Eunuch**

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Who would want to be a finance minister today?

This chariot would have been first class transport for the super rich or super influential, a nice black Mercedes Benz, and reading while travelling the custom was to read aloud, a great use of time. It showed that the finance minister was personally wealthy as he owned his own scriptures, a convert to the Jewish faith, or possibly a member of Judaism by birth. When you look at the extreme choices of religion in the world, he was making a wise and sound comparison to stick with Judaism.

**Q. This shows that the gospel crosses cultures, what is the groups experience with sharing faith to other cultures?**

**You may want to consider sub-cultures within your own culture, teens, elderly, and single parents.**

## **2. The Significance Obedience**

“Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Stay near to, to join to, associate with, and cling to, united to, stuck to, follow.

“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. Philip shows us the power of questions and how we can connect with people.

A wonderful pattern is developing, a rhythm of Gods Spirit, God speaks through an Angel, Philip goes - God speaks, “stay near the chariot”, and Philip obeys: then Philip speaks with a question and the finance minister answers, with a remarkable honesty.

The Spirit whispers, Philip listens and speaks, the minister responds.

**God had prepared the path** and the opportunity, we must always remember that when we start to follow those strong urges that we believe are the leading of Gods Spirit, God has been working long before us and will keep working long after us.

**Q. What testimony’s can you share about how you have been used in the journey of someone’s path to salvation?**

Young Pastor leads hardened criminal to Christ

“Now preacher, don’t get the big head because I have accepted Christ. You are just the twenty-fifth man.” On asking what that meant, the pastor was told that at least 24 others

had witnessed to him about Christ and that his conversion was the effect of all of these together. God had been at work before the pastor got there.

We are part of the process, not the answer; we are an instrument.

### **3. The Significance of the Message**

What does Philip explain?

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”<sup>[b]</sup>

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

Philip begins where the Ethiopian’s questions start, Isaiah 53. Philip is painting an understanding and a new picture of the Messiah, no one expected the great messiah to come and suffer? Substitutionary nature of Jesus was being explain, ideas are being challenged and changed.

### **Q. What picture do you think the average Canadian has of Christ?**

**John Wesley “We must offer them Christ”.**

People in the 21<sup>st</sup> century often have a totally wrong concept of Jesus, false ideas. We need to start where people are and move from that position, while creating that wonderful connection between the Spirits, words, and people.

Philip was willing to engage – time to jump up and sit.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Paul did the same in Ephesus, sticking around for two years talking and debating.

**Acts 19:** <sup>10</sup> This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

Sit and Stick – we need to sit with those who are seeing and stick with them on the journey to faith.

## **Q. Do you have people you are sitting and sticking with?**

### **4. The Significance of Baptism**

.<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”<sup>[37]</sup>  
[c] <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea

## **Q. what is important about baptism and what did it mean to you?**

### **Contemporary Thoughts**

## **Q. Consider these thoughts and discuss them, are they true and helpful.**

- Where God has placed us we can identify with people we understand them.
- It is important to be natural about the way we chat and approach people.
- We need to follow the prompting of the Spirit and stay **near** to the chariot.
- Be open to turn conversations into sharing Christ, showing love, a humble spirit and sensitivity.
- We need a confidence that God can solve people’s problems, we must offer them Jesus.
- Immediate Baptism was the biblical norm.