

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **February 16, 2020** sermon, "Desert Discipleship." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 8:26-40) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE DISCERN THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOTE . . .

1. The initiative that is taken (26-29)
  - a. Philip is led away from the population centers (Jerusalem, Samaria) and toward the desert for a one-on-one conversation.
    - i. Never underestimate the value of a private conversation.
    - ii. What's accomplished in private may have dramatic worldwide impact.
  - b. The Spirit gives sufficient, not exhaustive information.
  - c. Philip, in immediate obedience, takes a major detour from his intended course.
2. The Scripture that is applied (30-35)
  - a. Philip allows his acquaintance to set the agenda: let's talk about Isaiah 53!
  - b. Philip leads with a question: "Do you understand what you are reading?"
  - c. Philip is prepared to explain that Isaiah 53 refers directly to Jesus Christ.
3. The outcome that is noted (36-40)
  - a. Philip adjusted his methods (one-on-one, rather than public proclamation).
    - i. He began where the Ethiopian was.
    - ii. He asked questions before beginning to tell him the good news about Jesus.
    - iii. Philip was "invited" to sit down and explain the Scriptures.
  - b. The Ethiopian comes to genuine faith in Jesus Christ, bringing faith to Africa!

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How do we discern today when the Holy Spirit is "telling" us to travel to one place or another? Or to do one thing or another? Why must we be very careful to say, "God told me"? Do we lose credibility if we say "God told me" but it turns out to be just my own desire? Have you ever had to disagree with a "God told me" comment? How did that go?
2. Based on #1, above: The Holy Spirit will never contradict the Word of God. Never. It is incumbent upon us to be obeying what the Word has already revealed to us. It is the Word which will typically be our lamp and light (Psalm 119:105). Describe what God is doing in shaping you according to his Word. In what area is God currently shaping you most?
3. Based on #2, above: Philip knows the Scriptures and has the versatility to start where his listener is and explain Jesus. What on-ramps is God currently leading you to with regard to the questions of your unbelieving friends? How are you gaining traction? What questions are effective? How are they "inviting" you to "come up and sit with them" (31)? How can we pray?
4. Based on #3, above: Have you ever led someone to faith in Jesus Christ? Tell us! (Don't feel bad if you have not. Sometimes we do not know whether someone has responded in faith.) Who are you praying for? Is this sharing of Christ one of your highest priorities in life? How has it sometimes been inconvenient? How has sharing Jesus become your main mission in life?