

## My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 22 - Acts 8:26-40

**Summary of this week's teaching:** This week's passage in Acts details a wonderful interaction between Philip and a high-ranking Ethiopian. Sometime after Philip saw great success in sharing the Gospel among the Samaritans, the Lord directed him to go deep into the unpopulated desert lands of the south. Thankfully Philip obeyed the bewildering and vague marching orders, and once there, the Spirit directed him to a man who was reading through the scroll of Isaiah. Unfortunately for the man, he comprehended nothing of the text. Fortuitously for the man, the Lord had sent Philip the evangelist to meet him where he was at (literally and figuratively) and bring salvation in Christ to him.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What stands out to you most about this week's passage, and why?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Isaiah 56:3-8 and Acts 8:26-40.

1. How would the two passages from Isaiah (56:3-8 and quote in Acts 8:32-33) have spoken directly to the Ethiopian eunuch's life circumstances? How do you see the gospel proclaimed through them? Have you ever experienced scripture speaking directly to you and your life circumstances?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Please read Isaiah 55:1-3 and John 7:37-39. How have you felt your soul thirst for the Living Water this week? Have you attempted to satisfy this soul-thirst with things that are not Jesus? Finally, how have you satiated your soul-thirst with Jesus this week?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. In this week's passage, Philip first heard from an angel and then from the Holy Spirit regarding what he should do. How have you heard from the Lord in the past? Are there more regular ways in which you hear/feel Him speak to you?
2. Has the Lord ever given you commands that don't seem to make sense at the time? If so, how have you responded to such instances? Furthermore, what became of your obedience to any such commands?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Philip's gospel message to the eunuch met the man where he was and centered on Jesus - who He is and what He's done. How can you use this approach as you share the Gospel with others?

