



WARM-UP

We recommend you choose 1 or 2 of the following questions.

If you were to describe your past week in terms of a road, what kind of road would it be?

When did you get your first Bible? Who gave it to you?

What is your favorite Bible story or verse?

WORD

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian 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, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 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. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea."

- Acts 8:26-40 (NIV)



INTRODUCTION

In the midst of a fruitful time of ministry in Samaria, Philip was told by an angel to go to the road between Jerusalem and Gaza where he saw an Ethiopian eunuch, treasurer to Queen Candace of Ethiopia. Told by the Holy Spirit to overtake the chariot, Philip heard him reading from the prophet Isaiah. Invited to explain the passage in Isaiah (cf. Isa 53:7-8), Philip proceeded to preach Jesus to him. When they came to some water, the eunuch requested to be baptized and Philip did so upon hearing his confession of faith. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit caught Philip away and the eunuch resumed his journey with great joy. Philip was later found at Azotus, and continued to preach in the cities until he came to Caesarea (26-40).

DISCUSSION

1. What is your impression of this Ethiopian eunuch? How would you describe him?
2. What is your impression of Philip? How would you describe him?
3. Who has helped explain the gospel to you?
4. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53:7-8. Philip explained this passage in such a way as to convince the Ethiopian that Jesus was the Messiah and to be baptized in his name. How would you share the gospel from those verses?
5. If a Philip came up to you, what question about the Bible might you want to ask him?

APPLICATION

1. Who might God be calling you to serve? How can you serve them this week?



APPLICATION CONTINUED

2. What can you do to be better prepared to explain scripture and share the gospel like Philip?
3. Have you been baptized yet? If not, are you willing to learn more about baptism?
4. Is there someone you can encourage to be baptized?

PRAYER

1. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with someone this week.
2. Ask God if there is anywhere he would want you to go to be a help to others.
3. Ask God to help you understand the scripture better.