

June 11, 2017 – Leader Coaching

[This page is to help you sharpen your skills as a DiscipleGroup Leader. Each week we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your group and grow as a disciple yourself. Also, we have added comments (enclosed in brackets []) on the Leader Guide for you.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- God was working the Ethiopian man's life even before Philip showed up to explain the Gospel. We see this in several stories in the book of Acts, including the story of Cornelius, Lydia and of course, the apostle Paul.
- Philip was sent by the Lord to a desert area, to witness to a foreigner who was obviously a wealthy and important official. (He was traveling in a cart and owned a personal copy of the Isaiah scroll.) Philip went willingly to the desert and gave the time necessary to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian. What about you? Are you willing to go off the beaten path to witness? Are you willing to share the Gospel with people who are different?

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- This story should not be too difficult to learn since it has a single focus. It may also be quite familiar to some of your group members. You might want to share with your folks the passage from Isaiah 56:3-8 that talks about foreigners and eunuchs and God's house. Don't shy away from discussing the needs of immigrants in our city. The Bible talks a great deal about God's love for the foreigner and stranger.

Shepherding

[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- Note that the Ethiopian said to Philip "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God." This is what is known as a "confession of faith." This is an excellent story to share with lost people. You can use the Isaiah 53 passage in conjunction with this story to support the Gospel message.

Resources:

Have you thought about Christianity in other contexts, such as Africa? This story certainly shows how God is at work in other cultures. The following website has information about Christianity in diverse cultures <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/> Read the section on Africa to see what the Holy Spirit is doing there

NOTE: SINCE WE LOOKED AT THIS STORY IN MARCH, MUCH OF THE LEADER COACHING MATERIALS FROM THAT SESSION ARE REPEATED HERE.

June 11, 2017 – God at Work in an African Man

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[if there are new people in your group, give brief introductions of people they don't know]

Remind group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

Disciple-maker Questions

- What has changed in your life because of what you learned last week?
- Has God placed someone in your life outside this group that you need to invest in?
- How do you think God wants you to do this?

Ask a “hook question” to get the group talking

- Discuss how your prejudice has hurt both you and others. Share your experience.

Share background for the story

Last week we looked at Philip's ministry among the Samaritans. There was a powerful movement to Christ among the Samaritan people. This week we will see how Philip was sent by the Lord to a person of another culture group.

Tell the story – This week's story is about God at work in an African man from **Acts 8**.

[Tell the story with your Bible open on your lap to the passage.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud - Read **Acts 8:26-40**

[The Scripture passage will, obviously, have many more details. Were there any important details left out of the telling or retelling that you discover in the Scripture?]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do you learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in this story?
2. What do you learn about the characters in the story?
3. What stood out to you in this story?
4. What do you learn about yourself?
5. How will this story be used in your life and with others?

Ask someone to retell the story

Assign next week's passage – **The story of the Salvation of Saul the Persecutor from Acts 9:1-19.**

Close in Prayer

[Co-leader or apprentice say a closing prayer.]