



Small Group Study Guide for April 28, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: “Spirit-Led Adventure” Philip is led to a desert road to find an Ethiopian eunuch reading a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. This eunuch is a complete outsider. Yet, he is willing to travel hundreds of miles to Jerusalem because he longs for good news and a sense of belonging with God. By the time he returns home, he is baptized and made completely new through the power of the Holy Spirit. This message of the early church teaches us that God’s love extends beyond cultural barriers even for just one outsider. Imagine how far God’s love extends for you! Even today, God’s Spirit is breaking barriers with the radical news the gospel brings for all people.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Have you ever encountered a culture or tradition that felt entirely new and fascinating to you? What stood out the most?
2. God-sighting: Can you think of a conversation you have had with someone that had a significant impact on your life?

In the Word: Read Acts 8:26-40

3. At the beginning of Acts 8, Saul is ravaging the church in Jerusalem. Then in verse 26, an angel commands Philip to go down south near Jerusalem again. What thoughts and fears do you think Philip experienced on this mission?
4. Philip is led to meet an Ethiopian eunuch. We don’t know his name; however, the term “Ethiopian eunuch” tells us much about his life experience:

Ethiopian: First, this man was racially different, and from the outermost part of the civilized world.

Eunuch: Second, according to Jewish law, eunuchs were not allowed to worship with the congregation of the Jewish people (Deut. 23:1) because they were emasculated, cut off, and seen as unclean.

How did this Ethiopian eunuch experience life as an outsider? What’s difficult about being an outsider?

5. The Holy Spirit commands Philip to go and stand near the eunuch's chariot. After running to catch up, Philip hears the words of the prophet Isaiah being spoken. *Read Isaiah 53:3-8*. What hope does this give to outsiders who feel broken?

6. When Philip asks the eunuch if he understands the text, to which he responds, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" What does this great example of humility teach us about our reading of the Bible?

7. The eunuch stops the chariot near a source of water to be baptized. This happens directly after Philip told him of "the good news about Jesus." How does this speak to the significance of our baptism and the confidence it gives to us?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. Consider the last time you grappled with a passage of Scripture. How does the eunuch's humility in reading Isaiah give you hope and encouragement?

9. Philip follows a Spirit-led adventure to witness to this eunuch. What does it look like to follow the Spirit's guidance on ordinary days like today?

10. Philip was led to share the good news of Jesus to just one person. Yet, through one person, the gospel was spread throughout Ethiopia, and the continent of Africa. Who is one person you could share God's love with this week?

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, your mercies are new each day. We pray for Your Spirit to embolden to share Your love to outsiders in need of Your grace. Thank you for Your Son Jesus, who brought us in to Your family. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Next Week: Peter's visit to Cornelius in Acts 10 shows that the Gospel is truly for all nations, as the Gentiles believed the Good News, received the Holy Spirit, and were baptized into Christ. Praise God that His Kingdom is for all nations!