

NOTES

TRANSFORMERS

Gospel Metamorphosis in the Book of Acts

WEEK 6 | Philip – Embracing Divine Appointments

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, We come before you with gratitude in our hearts for the divine appointments you orchestrate in our lives. We recognize that these encounters are not mere coincidences but opportunities for your divine guidance and purpose to unfold. Lord, help us to be open and receptive to the people and moments you bring into our lives. Grant us the wisdom to discern your hand at work and the courage to follow where you lead. In Jesus name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION

(OPTIONAL)

Do you prefer to be surprised or do you need to know everything that is happening? Why?



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WORD

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south[d] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

[Acts 8:26-33](#)

In the midst of a powerful outworking of God's Spirit in Samaria, Philip was told to depart and go to Gaza. He was one of the first deacons, a spiritual man responsible for material things in the church, but by the time we see him here, he has become a preacher of the gospel. Persecution had struck the church in Jerusalem. People fled, so did Philip, and he went down to Samaria. God did amazing things through him, and the people there were receptive to the Lord and his message. Many were saved. God's power was evident. But in the midst of this powerful outworking of God's Spirit in Samaria, Philip was told to depart and go to Gaza.

Luke, the author of Acts, adds this commentary: "this is a desert place." In other words, uninhabited. God took Philip from the bustle of fruitfulness and placed him where no one lived. As the story unfolds, God's plan becomes clear. A prominent Ethiopian official is headed back home after a time of searching for the truth in Jerusalem. In his chariot, he read the book of Isaiah, but without any understanding of the text. When Philip saw him he asked if he could teach the man. The Ethiopian obliged, and Philip proceeded to show him Christ from the passage, subsequently leading him to saving faith.

[Nate Holdridge – 7 Lessons from Philip's Adventure](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your ability to identify a moment of divine appointment? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Philip was initially chosen as part of the seven back in Acts 6:1-6, because he was known for a good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom, Do you see any of these qualities in yourself? Why/Why Not?
3. If we see divine appointments as specific moments or encounters arranged by God for His purpose, can you share of a moment where you experienced a divine appointment, what happened and how did it help draw you closer to God?
4. The angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." How are you at following the leading of the Holy Spirit in your own life? What are the challenges or things that make it easier or harder to follow the Holy Spirit?
5. Do you want to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.