



## OPENING PRAYER

Lord, You are a God who pursues. You leave the crowds for the one, and You call ordinary people into extraordinary moments. Today, form us into faithful witnesses. Where we have been hesitant, give us courage and boldness to see, hear, and speak to the ones you bring into our path. In Jesus name, Amen.

## OPENING QUESTION<sup>(OPTIONAL)</sup>

Think of a time someone went out of their way for you — a stranger, a colleague, anyone. What did it feel like to know someone noticed you?



© 2025 by EVERYNATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

## WORD

### Acts 8:29-35, ESV

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.”

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

## REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

Philip is briefly introduced in Acts 6 as one of the Seven — chosen because the church already recognised him as a man full of the Spirit and wisdom. That kind of reputation isn't built overnight. It is formed in years of ordinary faithfulness — sitting under the apostles' teaching, serving the community, doing the unglamorous work of distributing food to widows. Philip didn't start as an evangelist. He started as a servant.

That background matters enormously when we get to Acts 8. Because when the Spirit gives Philip an unusual instruction — leave a revival in Samaria and head to a desert road — he obeys without explanation. Faithfulness in the small things had trained him to trust God in the unexpected ones.

The man Philip meets on that road is the Ethiopian eunuch — a figure of layered complexity. He holds significant political power, yet he is personally excluded. Under Mosaic law, a eunuch could not fully enter the assembly of God (Deuteronomy 23:1). He has come all the way to Jerusalem to worship, yet he cannot fully belong. He is reading Isaiah 53 — a passage about someone whose life is cut off, whose generation cannot be described — and without knowing it, he is reading his own story into a text that points to Jesus.

Philip doesn't wait for a perfect opening. He runs. He asks a question. He listens. And when the moment comes, he opens the Scripture and points it entirely to Christ. What happens next is one of the most quietly remarkable moments in Acts. The eunuch asks: “What prevents me from being baptised?” In Christ, the answer is nothing. The one who was excluded is now fully included. The one reading about a life cut off is given a new one. And he goes on his way rejoicing — still alone on the road, still culturally the same, but entirely transformed.

This is the Gospel reaching the margins through an ordinary person who was faithful before anyone was watching.

As John Stott observes, Philip's obedience illustrates that evangelism is not first about strategy — it is about surrender. The Spirit creates the moment. The disciple closes the distance.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (pick one from each section)

1. Philip served tables in Acts 6 before he evangelised in Acts 8. What ordinary roles or seasons in your own life might God be using to form you right now?
2. Philip was sent to a desert road — away from the crowds, toward one person. What does that say about how God measures impact and success?
3. The eunuch had access to Scripture but needed someone to guide him. Who in your life might be in that same position — spiritually curious but without someone to help them understand?
4. Philip ran toward the chariot. Where do you tend to hesitate instead of move toward people? What holds you back?
5. The eunuch's question was "What prevents me?" — underneath it was a deeper fear of exclusion. How does the Gospel speak to people in your world who feel like they don't belong or are too far gone?
6. What would it look like this week to be attentive to one Spirit-prompted moment — and actually step into it?

### Points of Activation

#### 1. Pray the Philip Prayer

Each morning this week, pray simply:

"Lord, who are You sending me toward today?"

"Give me the courage to run, not hesitate."

Philip ran. That posture starts in prayer.

#### 2. Close the Distance

Think of one person in your world who seems spiritually curious, isolated, or on the margins. This week, take one step toward them — not a programme, just a person.

A message to check in

A coffee invitation

A genuine question about their life

Boldness here is not a speech — it is proximity.

#### 3. Carry a Question

Philip's entry point was simple: "Do you understand what you are reading?" You don't need a perfect gospel presentation. You need a good question. This week, practise asking:

"What do you think about faith/spirituality/church?"

"Can I ask — what do you make of Jesus?"

Questions open doors that statements often close.

#### 4. One Person, One Step

Ask the Holy Spirit: "Who is my one?"

Then take one step:

Start the conversation

Share what Jesus has done in your life

Offer to pray for them

Invite them along on Sunday

Philip's entire encounter began with a single prompt obeyed. Your one step might be someone's turning point.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You that You are a God who goes after the one. Thank You that You don't wait for people to find their way to You — You send Your Spirit, and You send Your people. Make us the kind of people who are faithful in the unseen and attentive to Your prompts. Let the Gospel reach further through us this week in every conversation that you lead us into. In Jesus' name, Amen.