

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“The Leading of the Spirit in Evangelism” – Acts 8:26-40

FELLOWSHIP

Sharing the gospel can be intimidating if not in the practice or routine of it. When one starts to over guess and try to find the perfect situation or environment to share their faith, the right moment can become a scary stage of anxiety. Really there is no perfect script to follow. There are no perfect performances. What Jesus has done for us is really just a new, exciting story that now gives us a clearer meaning to what we are here for. People are not so interested in a polished presentation, they would rather hear a personal experience of someone’s journey. Can you imagine the account that the Eunuch from Ethiopia gave to the royal court of Queen Candace when he reached home? Obviously a spiritual people, they may have actually been following a strain of Judaism that dated back to the prophet Jeremiah. Picture the Eunuch’s surprise, as he was reading a difficult part of Scripture, that an apostle just happened to run up alongside of his chariot. This divine appointment wasn’t laid out fully to Philip either when he was in Jerusalem. As he answered God’s call to hit the road to Gaza, there had been more than enough of these experiences that he didn’t need to know all the details. Philip had already picked up on the pattern of the way the Spirit leads. God’s promptings will guide us into opportunities that impress us every time.

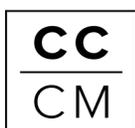
READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group Acts 8:26-40. Note those areas that can be applied to one’s spiritual growth and purpose, and also how to relate one’s faith to others. Joel Turner reminded us this week that with evangelism:

- 1) **It doesn’t always make sense.** It may be Gaza, but we can trust God’s promptings on where to go or who to talk to.
- 2) **It’s one step at a time.** God pointed out the chariot before Philip saw who he was going to talk to. Getting up to go and moving can be the difference between someone hearing about the Lord or not.
- 3) **You have to open your mouth.** Sharing the faith means personal engagement, no covert or undercover missions. Acts 4:31b *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*
- 4) **Point people to Jesus!** Any engagement becomes evangelistic when Jesus is inserted into the conversation.

- *Where has been some of the surprising places God has led you to share your faith? Why was the place or context not **where** you expected a gospel moment to happen? How has God guided your thoughts or conversations in those unplanned encounters? What have you learned about God and trusting His promptings?*
- *Some may have heard the Gospel for the first time in a stadium, but even that began with an invitation. Who was the person or people that took time to share with you? What was the relationship? Were they friends, co-workers, family, or random? Why should friendship play such an important role in evangelism?*
- *The conversation between Philip and the eunuch was very plain and natural. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Sometimes we can over spiritualize our jargon. Some refer to this as “Christianeze.” What are some of the phrases that outside of church might confuse a non-believer? e.g. “Are you saved by the blood?” “Hedge of Protection,” or “Quiet Time.” How can believers make sure they are relational to those they are sharing with outside of christian culture? Nicodemus was the first, but not the last, to initially be confused by the invitation to be, “born-again.”*

PRAY Continue to pray for boldness in the Spirit’s leading to share Jesus. Steps of faith will result in supernatural moments that will have the angels in heaven rejoicing!



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Joel Turner’s message on October 15, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/video/the-leading-of-the-spirit-in-evangelism/>