

# TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for July 17-July 23, 2022

WEEKLY READINGS: Acts 8; Acts 1:8; Isaiah 53; John 4:1-40; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 13:8

## ACTS IN 30 Week 8: *Philip the Evangelists' Life & Legacy*

"One of the most striking examples [of evangelism] in the New Testament is that of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip was one of the Seven who relieved the apostles of administering the funds and the food in the communal life of the earliest **Jerusalem** church. But he had evangelistic gifts as well, and these seem to have occupied his time more than the administrative task to which he was appointed! At all events we find him exercising a most successful ministry in **Samaria**. But he was so closely attuned to God that he recognized the still small voice calling him to go away from the limelight [of Samaria] into a most improbable place. I have no doubt that Luke intended the story of Philip to illustrate the value of this **personal evangelism**, and the need that those who practice it have for humility and obedient trust in God, for tact and knowledge of the Scriptures, for directness in pointing to Jesus and for bringing the man to the point of decision." -Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*

### FOCUS: READ Acts 1:8      Jesus' Command to Expand

*"But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem [Acts 2:1—8:3], in all of Judea, in Samaria [Acts 8:4—11:18], and in every part of the world [to the ends of the earth; Acts 11:19-28:31]."*

(Acts 1:8, The Expanded Bible Translation)

**BIG IDEA 1** – One of the final commands Jesus gave His disciples before He ascended into Heaven was a **command to expand**. The Lord prophesied in Acts 1:8 that after the Holy Spirit's power came upon them, they would begin witnessing in Jerusalem, but that they would eventually take the Gospel message to the very ends of the earth. This pattern sets the narrative for the entire Book of Acts from chapter 2 until chapter 28 and that **command to expand** continues even today!

**Q1- The Church of Jerusalem was growing every day (Acts 2:47). Perhaps they grew comfortable and complacent and forgot the Lord's command to expand (Acts 1:8) until persecution forced them out of their comfort zone (Acts 8:1). Why is it easy for us to get into our "comfort zone" as Christians and forget – or set aside – the commands of Jesus sometimes?**

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### FOCUS: Acts 8:5-40      Philip Becomes the First Evangelist of the Church

*"Philip, for example, headed north to the city of Samaria, and he told them the news of the Anointed One. The crowds were united in their desire to understand Philip's message. They not only listened with their ears, but they witnessed miraculous signs with their eyes."* (Acts 8:5-6, The Voice)

**BIG IDEA 2** – Philip took the Lord's command to expand seriously and was the first missionary of the Church to evangelize parts of **Judea** and **Samaria** with the Gospel. He was even called by God to evangelize and baptize an **Ethiopian** (Acts 8:26-39), potentially fulfilling the command for the Gospel to be spread to *"the ends of the Earth"* (Acts 1:8). Philip's life of witnessing for Jesus flourishes all throughout the Book of Acts as he is mentioned nearly 20 years later having settled in Caesarea hosting the Apostle Paul on one of his missionary journeys (Acts 21:8-9). Like Stephen, Philip started his ministry in a food pantry (Acts 6:5), but God used him to do incredible things for Him because of his obedience and faithfulness.

**Q2- The word, "evangelist," essentially means someone who shares the Good News of the Gospel: Jesus is the Messiah, in Him we have forgiveness for our sins, and can live with Him eternally. That's GOOD NEWS! Share a story of a time when someone shared the Good News of the Gospel with you. What was the setting; who was involved; what was your reaction?**

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### FOCUS: John 4:5-7      The Samaritan Woman at the Well: A Lesson in Personal Evangelism

*They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."* (John 4:42, NIV)

**BIG IDEA 3** – Years before Philip, the Samaritan woman who Jesus evangelized was the very first "evangelist" in Samaria. She encountered Jesus while doing her normal, everyday tasks, and He completely changed her life. She was so excited about the **Good News** Jesus told her, she went and told her entire village who eventually became **believers** as well! Her experience follows a 3-part pattern we can use as a guide based on Hebrews 13:8: 1) **PAST**: Jesus is the Lord of my **yesterday**; 2) **PRESENT**: Jesus is an active part of my life **today**; 3) **FUTURE**: Jesus is the Lord who will return one day to rule **forever!**

**Q3 – How can you adapt this 3-part pattern of personal evangelism like the Samaritan woman or Philip the Evangelist? Who are 1-2 people that you can potentially share your personal testimony of who Jesus is to you with someone this week?**

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