

**Acts of the Holy Spirit - 11**  
**Leading People to Faith – Philip & the Ethiopian**  
**Acts 8:26-40 - Week of September 24, 2017**  
**Bay Park Life Groups – Participant**

In Acts 8 we learn of the first person from Africa to become a Christian, long before any Europeans ever heard the Gospel. God could have sent an angel; instead he used Philip to help a high-ranking Ethiopian who was struggling to understand the Bible. What a reminder - the same God who inspired the Bible also gave us the Church to study it with. So congratulations on your decision to be part of this journey of digging deeper together in God's word and with his people!

1. What is one thing you are good at and look forward to doing every week?
2. Where the Gospels tell us what Jesus began to do, Acts is the story of what Jesus continues to do through his Church. The early church in Acts grew exponentially because individual believers took joining Jesus' mission seriously and personally. Evangelism was a natural outflow of their faith and joy in Jesus, so much so that they welcomed opportunities to tell others the Good News. How does this compare with your experience? What would it take for you to see evangelism as "your thing?"

Read Acts 8:26-29

3. A common question that Christians often struggle with is *how do I know what God's will is for me personally?* What light do these verses shed on the topic?

Read Acts 8:30-35

4. What do we learn about sharing our faith from the story of these verses?
5. What excuses, fears or hesitations might Philip have experienced in talking with the Ethiopian official? What are your greatest fears in sharing your faith?
6. What support can we as your life group provide to help you evangelize, even when you're scared?

Read Acts 8:36-40

7. The Ethiopian made a decision and then acted on it – he was baptized. The sign of the Old Testament covenant was circumcision. Circumcision was not by choice as it was typically performed on children. It was also only for men. The symbol of the New Testament covenant is baptism. It's by choice and is for women and men alike. Baptism is God's gift to us and symbolizes our commitment to joining Jesus' life, community and mission.

Finish one of the following sentences:

- I was baptized when . . .
- My baptism was significant because . . .
- What I don't understand about baptism is . . .
- What's holding me back from being baptized is . . .

8. How has the story of Philip and the Ethiopian grown your confidence in sharing your faith with others?

Remember – you're a saltshaker!