

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – Dec. 1, 2019

Theme: The Acts of the Apostles

Topic: Philip: An Effective Witness

Main Texts: Acts 8:4-8; 26-40

Key verse: Acts 8:35 – “*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him*” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: A result of the empowerment by the Holy Spirit is to ‘*be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*’ (Acts 1:8 NKJV). However, nearly 4 years after Pentecost, the disciples had not taken the gospel outside Jerusalem. So, God uses a wave of persecutions to scatter them (Acts 6:9). And before long, the gospel reaches Samaria and then to ‘the ends of the earth’ - to Azotus and then Caesarea, and all the major towns in-between like Joppa, Lydda; and even Ethiopia (Acts 8:4,39-40). And Philip, stood out in this business of witnessing about Jesus. The Apostles remained in Jerusalem while the other disciples were ‘scattered’ everywhere.

- 1. Though fleeing for their lives, the disciples preached the word of God wherever they went. See Acts 8:1-4: (a) What does our response to difficulties say about our view of life and God? (b) What does the early disciples’ response to difficulties say about their commitment to Christ? (c) Discuss what prepared them to respond in this manner to a situation that should ordinarily cause grief? See Mark 3:14; Acts 1:8; 4:13**

Though the disciples did not plan for their dispersal, there appears to be some pattern to their ‘scattering’ – first to Samaria, and beyond. Now in Acts 8:26-39, the gospel was crossing continents: led by an Angel of God, Philip crosses paths with someone from a different continent! In previous situations, sign and wonders accompanied Philip’s witnessing about Jesus. But with the Eunuch, it was through a thorough study of Scriptures. The encounter with the Eunuch has the elements of many of what we would encounter today in trying to witness to others.

- 2. (a). What does Acts 8:26-39 tell us about the Ethiopian Eunuch? (b) What can we learn from Philip’s approach to witnessing to the Eunuch? See Acts 8:26-27, 30,31, 34-35. (c) Let participants discuss practical ways we can make ourselves ready to take advantage of opportunities that may come our way to share the gospel with others like with our driver, house helps, work colleagues? Mark 3:14; Acts 2:42-47**

In the Bible, the word “witness” refers to someone who sees something and then talks about what he or she has seen. In Mark 3:14 Jesus ‘*appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.*’ We are were chosen to see and to tell (1 John 1:1). Likewise, wherever this phrase ‘*opened his mouth*’ (Acts 8:35) occurs in the New Testament, it always refers to more than the mere act of speaking (see Matthew 5:2; 13:35; Acts 10:34); it implies a set discourse. And in this instance, the discourse was about Jesus. The Eunuch hears enough to believe in Jesus and to eagerly affirm his belief with baptism. This indicates that Philip was able to show the Eunuch that those Old Testament prophecies were pointing to Jesus. Philip used the Word of God to preach to the Ethiopian rather than any personal experiences (Acts 1:16; Romans 10:17).

- 3. (a). Let participants share some Old Testament scriptures they know which teach about Jesus being the Christ? (b) When can we say we have effectively shared the gospel? Acts 8:35,37 (c) Since witnessing is telling others about Jesus, how does that reduce the worries which are often associated with witnessing**

Prayer: Lord make me a vessel to further your Kingdom on earth in Jesus Name, Amen