

This week concludes our exploration of the history of the New Testament church through the book of Acts. Last week, we looked at the calling of the first deacons and how *signs & wonders* became a part of the ministry of those other than the apostles, thus beginning the lay ministry movement. This week we explore one of the *signs & wonders* God is doing through Philip, another new deacon.

1. Has there ever been a moment in your life when you went out of your way to help someone understand something that was difficult for them? How did they respond to you? How did you feel about yourself at that moment?

Read Acts 8:26-40

2. Peter is in the midst of a place where many exciting things were happening; he had gone to Samaria to preach the word of God, and he performed many signs and wonders. **Acts 8:8** reads, "*there was great joy in that city.*"
 - Read **Acts 8:26-27**
 - What do you think it would have been like for Philip to leave the joy of the city to go to a desert road? Apprehension? Fear? Uncertainty? Excitement?
 - Why do you think he went?
 - Is it hard for us/you at times to leave something we/you perceive as exciting to follow God into the unknown?
3. From this passage, how would you describe Philip's relationship with God? (Verses **26, 29, 35, 39, 40**)
4. What do you understand as the role scripture played in the eunuch's conversion?

5. When Philip found the Ethiopian, he was reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip took the opportunity to explain how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies.

- Read these Isaiah passages, listening for how they speak of Jesus:

- **Isaiah 9:7**
- **Isaiah 11:1-10**
- **Isaiah 40:3**
- **Isaiah 42:19**
- **Isaiah 53:3, 5, 7, 9, 12**
- **Isaiah 61:1-2**

- How might you use them to share with others about Jesus?
- Do you think the Old Testament can be relevant today as we share with others about our faith?

6. Philip followed the Spirit's leading and began with where the eunuch was and led him toward Jesus. How might we use this as a model for sharing our faith with others who do not know Jesus personally?
7. Even though there were no witnesses, Philip baptized the eunuch at the water they came across. Why do you think Philip did so?
8. Ethiopia is located in Africa south of Egypt, at that time, the extreme boundary of the developed world. How do you see this fitting into God's plan for evangelism as seen in **Acts 1:8**?

This being Holy week, you may have many opportunities to share with others who Jesus is to you. Spend time in prayer asking that God would reveal to you whom you might share Jesus with this week.