

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 8:26–40

Read Acts 8:26–40.

- God has been leading and empowering his people through the Holy Spirit. Whom does he now use to direct Philip? (v. 26)
- Scan back over verses 4–25. Why might Philip have been reluctant to move on from Samaria?
- Though unsure of what his next mission will be, how does Philip respond to the angel? (v. 27)
- Describe the man Philip meets. (v. 27)
- As a foreigner and a eunuch, this man was forbidden by the Law from entering the assembly of the Lord (Deut. 23:1). Read Isaiah 56:1–8.
 - What has God promised to a man like this?
 - As you go through this lesson, observe how this promise is being fulfilled.
- What brings Philip and the Ethiopian together? (vv. 29–31)
- What is the Ethiopian perplexed about as he reads the Scripture? (v. 34)
- This passage from Isaiah 53 is clearly an open door for Philip to begin to share the good news that Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies. Read Luke 22:47–23:46 and record some of the ways they were fulfilled.

Led like a sheep to the slaughter	22:54, 66; 23:1
As a lamb...silent, so he did not open his mouth	23:8–9
In his humiliation	22:63–65; 23:2, 10–11, 33–39
He was deprived of justice	23:13–25
Who can speak of his descendants? His life was taken from the earth	23:33a, 44–46

9. How does the Ethiopian respond to Philip's message? (vv. 36–39)

10. How does the story of the Ethiopian eunuch clearly demonstrate God's unfolding plan? (Rom. 16:25–27, Eph. 3:4–6)

11. Just before Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch, he had been proclaiming Christ in Samaria. The differences between the Samaritans and this eunuch are striking. Use the chart to see the similarities in their stories.

	Samaritans	Ethiopian Eunuch
8:6, 8:31		
8:12a, 8:35		
8:12b, 8:36–38		
8:8, 8:39b		

12. What surprising thing happens after the baptism of the newly converted Ethiopian? (v. 39)

13. God's work of saving individuals is varied and gloriously creative. To the crowds gathered on Pentecost from many nations, he gives the ability to hear the "wonders of God in [their] own tongues!" (2:11). To the Samaritans who have been enthralled by the magic of Simon the Sorcerer, he brings Philip, who performs miraculous signs to get their attention. To the Ethiopian eunuch reading Old Testament prophecy, he sends Philip, who begins with "that very passage of Scripture" to tell him the good news (v. 35). Briefly share with the group who or what circumstances God has used to bring you the good news of Jesus.

Take time to marvel at God's creativity and mercy.