

WEEK 3: PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

ACTS

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. Acts 8:35

Acts 8:26-40

There is a reason the majority of people have a fear of public speaking – it is scary! We fear **fumbling** over words, forgetting what we are supposed to say, **embarrassing** ourselves in some way and, perhaps worst of all, **inviting** judgment from the people watching us. It can be one of the most **terrifying** things to share something in **front** of a group and even vulnerability on a smaller **scale** can cause palms to sweat.

When it comes to sharing the **Good** News with someone, you might be thrilled at the thought or your heart might start to race in **nervous** anticipation. It can be scary to talk about Jesus because not everyone is ready or willing to hear it. **Sharing** about His love could cause judgment and bring up many of those same fears of **public** speaking: *What if I fumble over my words? What if I don't know enough information? What if I **embarrass** myself?*

In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit **prompts** Philip to approach the Ethiopian man and share **Christ** with him. Philip may have had some hesitations internally, but Scripture says that upon hearing this command from the Holy Spirit, Philip “ran up” to the man and began to explain God’s Word to him. He did not let **fear stop** him or his thoughts of disapproval get in the way.

Philip knew that the power of the Holy Spirit was with him and, because of this, He was able to **interpret** the Word of God to the Ethiopian man in an easy, understandable way. When the man did not **understand** the words he was reading, the Holy Spirit intervened through Philip and used him to **help** the man come to faith and **ultimately** be baptized into God’s family! God can use us to share the **gospel** in the same way. Even when we are **scared** or cannot find the **words**, the Holy Spirit is always there to help guide and speak **through** us.

Questions to think about:

1. Is there someone who helped lead you to Christ?

2. Have you ever shared the Good News with someone? How did they respond?
3. How does the Holy Spirit's presence give you confidence?