



OPENING QUESTIONS

What is your favourite story? What do you like about it? What words would you like to be descriptive of your life story?

BIG IDEA

God is writing the story of your life. We cooperate by being open, obedient, and bold.

CONTEXT

Stephen had recently been martyred in Jerusalem. A wave of persecution had come over the Church in Jerusalem. All the believers, except the Apostles, fled the city. Philip was one of those who were dispersed. As he went he preached the Good News of Jesus. As he ministered in Samaria many people were saved, healed, and delivered from evil spirits. By all accounts his work was flourishing and it seemed that Samaria was a good place for him to be. God had other plans.

READ TOGETHER

Have a group member read through **Acts 8:26-40** as the rest of the group simply listens. Have another group member read through the passage again as others follow along in their Bibles. Encourage them to make notes of any words, phrases, or thoughts that stand out to them.

PRAYER

God is always writing the next chapter of our life story. We cooperate with him and live into that story as we are open to his leading, obedient to his calling, and bold in our response. Pray that God will reveal his plan and calling to you as you study his Word and that you will be bold to follow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) You never know when God is going to write the next chapter of your story. Philip's ministry seemed to be going well in Samaria, yet God called him elsewhere. Have you ever had an experience when God directed you to do something that did not make sense? How can we deal with the tension created when God's timing and common sense seem at odds?
- 2) What do Psalm 37:23 and Proverbs 20:24 have to say about God's direction?
- 3) You never know where God is going to take you. What are some examples from the Bible of people God called to a different location?
- 4) Read Mark 10:29-30. According to these verses what is the outcome of giving up certain things for the sake of the gospel? In our context, what types of things could we be called to give up? What role does faith have in following God's direction?
- 5) Perhaps one of your group feels that God may be asking them to step out into something new. How could your group help one another discern God's call to step out into something new?
- 6) Philip was directed by God to leave a fruitful ministry in Samaria and go to the desert. It was in the desert that he received further direction to speak to the Ethiopian. Ask your group members: Is God calling you to go anywhere or do anything specific? Will that require any kind of sacrifice on their part? Is God asking you to speak to anyone?

CHALLENGE

- Commit to pray for one another as you discern what God is asking each one of you to do.
- Commit to pray that God would give you an open, obedient, and bold heart as you follow God's direction.
- Commit to report to the rest of the group what steps you have taken to follow through on God's direction.

PRAYER

- God, is there anywhere you want me to go?
- God, is there anyone you want me to speak to?
- God, give me courage and the words to say.