



## The Acts of the Spirit

GATHERING THE CHURCH

# ACTS 8:26-40

"THE FOREIGNER"

OCTOBER 15, 2023

## AT A GLANCE

Let's review the ABC's of discipleship through this passage in Acts: Go, Know, and Show.

## CONTEXT

The Book of Acts is the theological history of the Church. In the previous weeks, we explored how God's people (the Church) have become where heaven and earth meet. The Church is multiplying rapidly, and with it, opposition from the outside and obstacles from within. Despite the opposition, these followers of Christ are sown, not scattered, into areas and people groups in need of hearing the Gospel.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Bob preached on Philip's faithful obedience to GO, KNOW, and SHOW the good news of Jesus with the Ethiopian Eunuch, which ultimately led to his new life in Jesus and the rise of the Ethiopian church.

Pastor Bob explained that this passage highlights the kindergarten ABCs of how we can share our faith genuinely while trusting in God to be the one to change people's hearts.

Those ABC's are:

**Go:** To move towards people God has intentionally put in our path in faithful obedience.

**Know:** To compassionately and curiously take time to understand people's backgrounds and life-questions before sharing the Gospel.

**Show:** To genuinely and effectively build a bridge between people's questions and the Gospel using the scriptures.

Pastor Bob closed by challenging us to see evangelism as our primary purpose so we can experience the joy of seeing those in our sphere be healed of the disease of sin and brought to new life in Jesus.



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*This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.*

*Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.*

## DISCUSSION

### Expand Your Awareness

We all approach evangelism from a different starting point. Some of us are experienced, some are afraid, some are unaware, and some are ashamed. All normal and natural starting points.

- Based on your background, what has been your posture towards evangelism, and what experiences have led you to feel that way about it?

When it comes to evangelism, we often can become stuck and overwhelmed by pressure. That pressure comes from knowing we should share the Gospel but being overwhelmed with fearful uncertainty. That pressure gives birth to avoidance and is followed closely by shame. That pressure makes us feel stuck and hopeless to do what we were made to do.

Pastor Bob said God has relieved that pressure because he is in charge of the change process; we are only responsible for being faithful to share. This means to break the loop of pressure, we only have to deal with our fearful uncertainty. Let's dismantle that so we can get unstuck and in the game.

- Hypothetically speaking, what is the worst thing that could happen to you when sharing the Gospel? How difficult would that be to experience that potential outcome?
- Conversely, what is the best thing that could happen?
- What would it be like to be a part of that?
- How does thinking through those questions help dislodge fear?

### Extract the Truth:

Let's take a look at God's word and extract the truth of what evangelism can look like.

### Read Acts 8:26-40

GO

- Why do you believe God called Philip to move into a generic space before calling him specifically to approach the Eunuch?
- What might this reveal about how God moves us toward those hungry for the Gospel?



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## KNOW

- How do you think Philip's compassionate and person-focused curiosity led to a more open and curious response from the Eunuch?
- What can we learn from this interaction to help us better share the Gospel genuinely and effectively?

## SHOW

- What do you notice about how Philip's knowledge of the scriptures helped him effectively and genuinely build a bridge to the Gospel?
- What principles can we learn from Philip that we can use for more effective evangelism?

### Explore Your Experience

Pastor Bob spoke about how knowing your larger purpose (a missionary for Christ) allows you to be more aware and ready to share the Gospel.

- When it comes to "going", what gets in your way of seeing those God has put in your path and their spiritual needs as your primary purpose?
- When it comes to "knowing", what gets in your way of remembering to have a compassionate and people-focused curiosity to understand better those people's backgrounds and questions about life?
- When it comes to "showing," what gets in your way of building a bridge between people's backgrounds/questions and the good news of the Gospel?

### Experience Transformation & Engage the World

- Based on your background and experience, which areas (Go, Know, Show) feel the most challenging to you and why?

Based on that area, pick the correlating question/action step that will help you grow in that area:

**Go:** Evaluating the spheres of influence God has placed you in, where (or who) do you feel a prompting to move towards in faithful obedience?

**Know:** How can you move towards that person compassionately and curiously to better understand their background and questions about life?

**Show:** After learning more about them, what can you do to practically prepare yourself for future conversations that may allow you to share the Gospel?



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### **Closing Thought:**

*Faith church will launch Life 2 Life groups to help everyone learn to share the Gospel in their life in intentional ways. For future growth in this area, sign up for one today! Visit: [faithchurchindy.com/life2life](http://faithchurchindy.com/life2life)*

### **Pray For:**

- Awareness of where God has "sent" you.
- Compassionate curiosity to better understand the spiritual lives of those around us.
- A faithful obedience.



**PREPARE FOR  
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 9:1-9