

FOLLOW ME

Week 8: August 8-14

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)

Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting (2 minutes): The culture of love and disciple making is not just for the people in our group. It is also for us to invite others into. Let's seek God together about who we can connect to our group.

Hook Question (5 minutes): When was a time you chose to obey someone or God knowing it would be difficult?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

As the church in Jerusalem practiced unity in Christ, it rapidly grew in Jerusalem. Imagine being a part of a church that was exploding because of the love of God shown to each person in the church! This was exciting to believers, but there were many who were filled with hate for the people who claimed to know "the way" to eternal life. The church began to be persecuted which led to believers being dispersed around the regions of Judea and Samaria. Only the apostles would remain in Jerusalem.

Philip, who was one of the men chosen to serve the Hellenist widows, fled to Samaria to proclaim Christ. Samaria was one of the first places to learn of the Messiah, Jesus, when the woman at the well told the whole town how Jesus had told her all she had ever done. So, when Philip came and many signs were done through him, it brought much joy to the people. Then the apostles heard of all the excitement in Samaria and sent Peter and John to pray over the people that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Philip, Peter, and John then returned to Jerusalem where an angel would tell Philip of another difficult journey he was to take. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 8:26-40 (12 Minutes): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Retell the story as well as possible.

Read Acts 8:26-40: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What does this story teach you about yourself and others?
- How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? How should you apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.