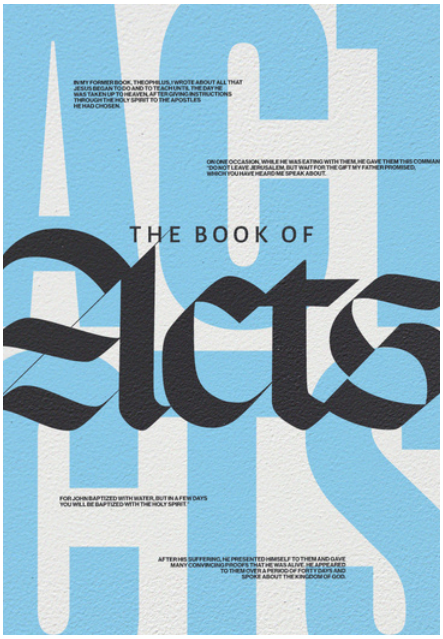
SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Part 8 // Sharing Jesus



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Care Team Presents…Understanding and Caring for People with Sexual Addiction on Sunday, March 22nd**
  - Join us for a practical training led by Curtis Eklund, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and owner of Integrity Counseling Group. This session will explore the impact of sexual addiction on spiritual, emotional, and physical health, while equipping you with insight, helpful resources, and tangible ways to support those walking through it. Whether you're a leader, friend, or family member, you'll leave better prepared to care with compassion and wisdom.

- **All Church Serve Day on Saturday, March 7th**
  - We invite your Life Group to jump in and serve communities together at our All Church Serve Day. It's a great opportunity to serve in a variety of ways across San Diego while sharing the tangible love of Jesus with our neighbors. Serving together also has a fantastic way of bonding your group together. You won't want to miss this once-a-year outreach where we get to make an impact together as a church in a way that we could not accomplish individually.

ICE BREAKERS

- What is one win (small or big) that you are thankful for in your life right now?

- What is a food combination you love that other people think is questionable?

WARM UP:

Leaders, this is a moment where we get everyone involved. It's not where we're unpacking or going deep into questions but a chance to "warm up" our brains for where we're headed in this week's study.

SAY: We all have things in our life that require a response. Let's take some time to rank these scenarios from 1 (respond immediately) to 10 (can wait) based on how urgent we think the response should be. Walk through the list and agree on some numbers (you can even write on a piece of paper or white board). The point is for this to be silly not necessarily serious.

- A fire alarm going off in your house.
- Your DoorDash driver says they're about to arrive.
- A text from a friend that says, "We need to talk."
- Your boss emails and marks it "Urgent."
- Someone tags you in a photo where your eyes are closed.
- Your bank sends a fraud alert.
- A group chat that will not stop going off.
- Your child's school calls during the day.
- A flash sale for something you've had your eyes on for months.
- A family member texts, "Hey… do you have a second to talk?"
- A solicitor knocks on your door.

TRANSITION: We respond quickly to what feels urgent…those things that demand our attention and disrupt our plans. But in Acts 8, Philip shows us that some of the most important moments do not come with alarms or pressure, they come as a quiet direction from God.

In the middle of a thriving ministry, Philip is sent to a desert road, and his immediate obedience becomes part of how the gospel begins moving beyond borders toward the ends of the earth. As we read this story, we see how one simple response opens the door for global impact.

READ IT:

Acts 8:26-39 (CSB)

26 An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is the desert road.[a]) 27 So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem 28 and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot."

30 When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who will describe his generation?
For his life is taken from the earth.

34 The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?” 35 Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

36 As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?” 38 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing.

DISCUSS IT:

- In Acts 8:26-27, the Lord called Philip to go south to the place where God wanted him to be. From your perspective, what was missing from this request from God? How does not having all the info impact whether or not you respond to the Lord?
  - **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** The Bible is filled with numerous examples of God leading and guiding through a variety of means: Words from God (Acts 8:26-27), Divine dreams (Gen 37), Visions (Isaiah 6), Angels (Luke 1:26-38), Burning Bushes (Exodus 3), closed doors (Acts 16:6), etc.
  - **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19:11-13 (NLT)** *“...And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”*
  - **ADDITIONAL QUESTION**: In the passage above, God communicated to Elijah in a still small voice. How does God communicate with you? How do you know when it’s God ‘s divine nudge rather than your own desires?

- In Acts 8:30-31, Philip met and engaged the Ethiopian man with a open posture, a curious question, and a strategic way of connecting Jesus with the Old Testament. What stood out to you about his approach to evangelism with the Ethiopian? Have you ever used this particular approach with anyone when sharing your faith?

- **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Philip's approach to evangelism was different than that of Jonah with Nineveh in Jonah 3, Jesus with the Samaritan woman in John 4, and Peter with the Jews in Acts 3. One commonality in each of these examples is a willingness to share truth in a way that the audience could receive it.
- **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:** ***1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*** *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"*
- **ADDITIONAL QUESTION**: How do I share my personal relationship with Jesus and the truth of the gospel with gentleness and respect in a world often opposed to it? If the gospel truly is good news, how might the way I communicate it shape how it's received?

- In Acts 8:35, Philip simply shared the Good News about Jesus. Do you agree that clearly sharing who Jesus is and what He has done in my life is the most important part of sharing the gospel? Why or why not? If not, what would you say is the most important truth when sharing the gospel?
  - **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Philip's story shows us that God often calls His people away from the crowds to focus on just one person. Large events and programs are important, but they cannot reach everyone. If the gospel is going to spread across cities, it will happen through believers engaging in everyday conversations, one person at a time. The kingdom of God advances not just through platforms but through people's willingness to share Jesus wherever they are.
  - **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:** **Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)** *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
  - **ADDITIONAL QUESTION**: Is it more difficult to share your faith with those you know or those you don't? In your life, who is the most difficult person to share the gospel with? Why?

APPLY IT:

Acts 8:35 (CSB)
“Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus…”

SAY: Philip didn’t need a crowd, a platform, or a program, he simply shared who Jesus is and what He has done. The gospel moves forward when ordinary believers take small, intentional steps to share Jesus in everyday conversations.

CHALLENGE:

- This week, who is one person in your life with whom you could share Jesus in a simple, natural way? How can you step out in obedience to speak about who Jesus is and what He has done, even in a short conversation or everyday moment?

PRAY:

- How can we be praying for you this week?