



EVANGELISM 101 – ACTS 8:26-40

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone, but didn't know how to bring it up? It can be a challenging topic to bring into conversation and perhaps it feels really forced to suddenly "spring" it on them. So, how did the apostles share the gospel with whoever they met? We get to see a bit of how evangelism looked like for the early church as we watch Philip share the gospel with someone he just met. While we face different circumstances than Philip, we can see and use the same pattern of how he engaged this person with the gospel. We are called to share the good news as we meet people where they are at and help them see the beauty of Jesus. While this is always the goal, it is thankfully not something we do by ourselves, but fully relying on the Holy Spirit to help us. As we speak out our faith, the Holy Spirit is with us helping us and helping them see the good news of Jesus Christ.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides



me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. The passage that the Ethiopian was reading was from Isaiah 52:7-8, read the passage with its context and discuss what references to Jesus Philip could have used?
2. How is baptism understood in this passage and what does it teach us? Also consider Acts 8:13 and Romans 6:3-4 and discuss how baptism is related to salvation.

APPLY THE TEXT

3. What is the biggest obstacle for telling others about Jesus? How can you overcome that?
4. How do we learn to rely on the Holy Spirit in our evangelism? What does it look like to be led by the Spirit in this area?



SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.
2. In light of Acts 8:26-40 pray that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ, meeting people where they are at and lifting their eyes to see the glory of Jesus!

