

PASSAGE: Acts 8:26 - 40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, Doug and Belinda Horley shared all that they were doing to reach out in mission to children around the world through Doug's ministry. It was great to hear about their worldwide mission, but mission is something that we as Christians are all called to get involved in. In this scripture, we look at Philip and his summons to mission by the Holy Spirit. Are we open to being directed in the same way?

LAUNCH

- Think about a story or film that involved someone being sent on a mission. How was the mission presented and how did the person being sent on the mission respond?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

- Read Acts 8: 26-40. The kind of direct guidance given to Philip is pretty unusual. How might the Holy Spirit guide us to witness to a particular person?
- Is evangelism just about being led by the Spirit or can it be strategic?
- What facts do we learn about the travelling stranger before his encounter with Philip? In what way were these facts encouraging? What sort of encouraging facts should we look out for in the people that we are seeking to reach out to?
- What can we learn from the way in which Philip opens up a dialogue with the eunuch? How can we provide similar principles to our own conversations?
- Philip was originally one of the seven men called on in Acts 6 to oversee the distribution of food amongst the needy within the church. And yet by Acts 8 he was an out and out evangelist. In what ways can we pigeon hole ourselves in certain roles that means we rule ourselves out of other gifting? Why is it particularly easy to rule ourselves out of evangelism?
- In what ways does the passage that the eunuch was reading provide a perfect opening to the gospel message? What other scriptures would you use in sharing the gospel with a friend and why?

APPLICATION

- Spend time praying for particular friends whom you would like to see come to Christ
- Pray that you will be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in starting conversations with existing friends and that he will direct you into new friendships