

## Home Group study: week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Philip the Great – Bringing Joy to a City

Think of someone from history who was considered 'great'. It could be a great historical character, a great author or a great composer. What marked them out as being great to you?

Now think of someone from your past who was 'great'. Why were they great in your eyes?

#### Read: Acts 8:1-25

#### Discovery and Understanding

As you read this story what are some of the issues that you find confusing or difficult to understand?

If you had been 'scattered' as a result of persecution, how do you think you might behave? What was so striking about the way Philip acted?

Linked to this theme, Malcolm's sermon warned us against a victim mentality. How can Covid make us 'victims' and what sort of behaviour can result? In what ways are you challenged personally to be more like Philip especially as we come out of lockdown?

Philip was a servant in Acts 6 but decided to become an evangelist in the light of changing circumstances. He refused to fit into his original stereotype which ended up being a huge bonus for the church. What internal stereotype around role, gifting or character might you have that prevents you from being outward looking?

A key factor in Philip's success which we easily ignore is that full of the Holy Spirit, he performed many healings and miracles.

How do we go about being full of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?

In what ways could you take a bit of a risk in the whole signs & wonders department?

What was wrong with Simon's approach to the faith? Is this mimicked today in any way? Was Peter too harsh in the way he dealt with Simon? Why or why not?

What are some other gross misconceptions that people can have about the Christian faith today?

#### Application

Pray for the courage and ability to be able to invite someone to church at some point in the future.

Pray for one another against any 'victim mentality' that they might be experiencing or if they feel abandoned by God.