Lesson 5

Sharing My Faith: Face to Face

Mt. Zion Church Bible Study
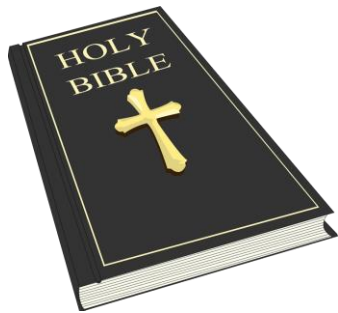
**Lesson written by**

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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

**Introduction**: Having learned the importance of sharing our faith is simply one step of the evangelism equation. The past few lessons have emphasized Jesus' mandate to go and make disciples. Students have discovered the meaning of disciple and even a few approaches to engaging in conversations that lead towards a faith-sharing conversation. The following lesson was designed as a study in how to meet people on their level of understanding and then move them to clarity regarding Jesus, His purpose, and how to accept Him.

Reading for this lesson

I.  Listening for the Opportunity

How often do you hear the voice of The Lord telling you to do something? The event between Philip and the Ethiopian was initiated by The Lord speaking through an angel.

Notice the command from the angel in verse 26. **²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."**

The Lord is regularly speaking to us about opportunities for ministry. Think of the last time, you felt the push to call someone, invite someone to prayer or church, to go over to someone and talk to them, or to visit someone. These pushes to do or that voice in your head is likely the Lord speaking to you. In the space below, jot

down an instance where you have been pushed to go share with someone by the Lord.

| The Lord told me to…. |
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The more important question we all must answer is "Did we do what the Lord told us to do?" or "What feelings did you have when the Lord told you to "Go and do"?

Our passage does not give us insight into Philip's feelings, however there may have been some barriers that Philip encountered emotionally before he went into the moment with the man.

Let's unpack the possible barriers which could have caused Philip to pause in his obedience to ministry.

- What differences were there between Philip and the Ethiopian?

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- What similarities were there between Philip and the Ethiopian?

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> How do similarities and differences create barriers to us sharing our faith with others?

II. The Encounter

In verse 29, the Holy Spirit tells Philip to go to the chariot. The Ethiopian was reading scripture but was confused in what he was reading. You will notice by the move of the situation that God already provided the opportunity for Philip to share.

At least five aspects of this moment provide the foundation of the encounter.

- First, the man had an interest in spiritual matters. He is reading scriptures.
- Second, the man was unsure of the meaning of what he is reading. He needs someone to explain it to him.
- Third, he has time to talk. The event happens during a time where they could casually have a conversation
- Fourth, Philip understands what he is reading…Philip was prepared.
- Fifth and most important, The Lord sent Him!

This encounter is a set up for success. The Lord gives us these opportunities to go speak to people who already want to hear! We can take advantage of moments like this which happen more times than we may realize.



For example:

- If you are in the car with someone and they share a need
- If you are one on one with someone eating and they share a need

- If you are working out with someone and they share a need
- If you are walking with someone and they share a need
- If you are having a text message conversation with someone and they share a need

The opportunities are all around us!

III. The Conversation

This portion of the text begins with a simple question. "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Philip does not begin with a long explanation of Jesus. He meets the man at his place of misunderstanding. The conversation really began when the Ethiopian expresses a desire to move beyond his confusion.

In modern language, we can read the conversation as follows:

"How can I understand unless someone explains it to me, because this part right here about a sheep and a lamb is kind of confusing," said the Ethiopian.

*The goal is to begin at an entry point of conversation that lends itself to sharing spiritual truths.*

Philip replied, "Oh, I can explain that. Isaiah is talking about the Messiah who was to come and has now come. What he is explaining is…."

- What are some confusions that you have heard people express?

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A great place to begin a conversation is where a person is confused or has questions. You could even simply ask them, what do you know about Jesus? or Did you know that Jesus has an answer for that situation? Your goal is to begin in a conversational space that lends itself to sharing spiritual truths. These opportunities are available because people may have questions, confusions, misconceptions, and totally inaccurate information about salvation and Jesus.

IV.    The Result

In this portion of the passage, students can see an outcome occurs. First, let's trace the pathway to this outcome.

What happens in this text?

First _____

Then _____

Next _____

Then _____

Finally _____


Is there any part of this process that you would not be able to do? If you identified that you may have some difficulty explaining scripture, guess what! This means you have some studying to do. However, the basics you need to know are: Who is Jesus? What did he do? Why did he do it? What is sin? How can I be forgiven for my sins? How do I accept Jesus?

In the next lesson, you will discover verses that assist you in sharing Jesus Christ with others!

The result of Philip's obedience to the Holy Spirit is that the Ethiopian was able to accept Jesus and be baptized. The baptism occurs after Philip makes sure the man understands Jesus. In verse 37, the man confesses Jesus as the Son of God, is baptized, and rejoices over what has happened in his life. We can assume that when he returned to Ethiopia, he shared what happened in his life to Queen Candace and others.


**Concluding thought**: As we live each day, we must become good listeners to the needs of others. God has provided people who will be ready to hear the word. Open your ears and take advantage of those opportunities to tell someone about Jesus!