**A DIVINE APPOINTMENT**

**Acts 8:26-40**

**THE BIG IDEA: When we live Spirit-led lives God uses us for His kingdom purposes.**

**BEING USED FOR GOD’S KINGDOM PURPOSES REQUIRES BEING \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BY GOD’S SPIRIT**

* *“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.) 27 So he got up and went.”* (Acts 8:26-27a)
* *“The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go and join that chariot.’”* (Acts 8:29)
* **The more time we spend with God through His word (Bible), prayer, and in service to Him, the more we will be able to hear and discern the leading of the Holy Spirit.**
* *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.”* (Romans 8:14 NLT)
* *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”* (Galatians 5:25)
* **A Christian who is filled with, and led by, the Holy Spirit will have a commitment to reach those who need the Good News of Jesus.**

**BEING USED FOR GOD’S KINGDOM PURPOSES REQUIRES BEING \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE MISSION**

* *“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?’”* (Acts 8:27-30)
* **The heart of Jesus for His followers is that we develop a missional mindset because there are plenty of people ready to receive the message of Jesus.**
* Jesus - *“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”* (Matthew 9:37-38)
* **Everyone has the same 24 hours in each day and the question we need to ask ourselves is, “How much of that time and I giving to reach lost and hurting people?”**

**BEING USED FOR GOD’S KINGDOM PURPOSES REQUIRES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE**

* **When we extend the same levels of grace we have experienced from the Lord, we will see God’s hand at work through us in the lives of those who desperately need Him.**
* *“‘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.*
* **We should ask the Lord to shape our hearts to see others as opportunities for ministry as opposed to inconveniences in our lives.**
* *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. 40 Philip appeared in Azotus, and he was traveling and preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.”* (Acts 8:31-40)
* **Jesus’ love was demonstrated when He died to pay the price for the sins of people from all nations, tribes, and tongues.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is something you view as an inconvenience, but it is necessary?

**START THINKING:**

* What does Acts 8:26-40 show us about God’s heart for the nations?
* What characteristics about Phillip set an example for us?
* What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?
* What was the Ethiopian’s immediate response to the Gospel?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

* What can we learn and apply from Phillip’s character and life?
* What does this passage teach you about being ready to explain the Bible to others?
* Why is Baptism important? Have you been baptized since you accepted Jesus as your Savior?
* How does Phillip’s encounter with the Ethiopian impact you regarding loving and reaching those who are different from you?
* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?