

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 10 of 30 | Sermon date:** March 6, 2022

**Discipleship Phrase:** God's church, God's way.

**Big Idea for Series:** God's church is built on His principles.

## **Abiding** *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

This week dig deep and look at the places, people, and circumstances of your life that you find challenging and uncomfortable. Find the ways and scenarios that you knew God was walking ahead, beside and behind you all the way. Be intentional about thanking Him for the blessing of his presence and peace in the trials of your journey. Be prayerful about people and circumstances you might avoid and invite him into those places; asking him to reveal His strength, will and love along the way.

## **Leading** *(facilitate your group effectively)*

As you lead this week, keep in mind that just because something is simple, doesn't mean that it's easy. In fact, some of the simplest things can be the most difficult to do. Leaning into hard things becomes easier when we're willing to embrace the inconvenience. The discussion questions begin with the head question, acknowledging that Phillip was stepping into a hard space. Then in question two, the heart question, we ask that you invite your group to wrestle with where God might be calling them to go that is uncomfortable. Now this could be a physical place, a psychological place, a theological place or perhaps a relational place. There are no limits to where this might be, explore them all. The final question, the hands question, encourages us to consider how we might be able to make it more inviting for others to lean into hard spaces and conversations. Remember to stay curious. Genuinely curious. Ask follow up questions for clarity and encourage the entire group to do the same.

## **Shepherding** *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

This week challenges each of us to move into places that might be hard and uncomfortable. What conversations can you have with your members following group discussion? Are there ways that you can gently share how God has come alongside you when you were in an uncomfortable place? Shepherding members in these areas can also be an uncomfortable place for you. It is good to be aware of this and to be mindful where God might be pulling you. Through your availability, not your ability, God will use the love, sensitivity, and compassion you show to your group. Encourage your members to likewise seek out others in conversation and relationships even when it is uncomfortable. God will do amazing things.

## **Church Announcements** *(be in the know & share with your group)*

Easter services will be Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 & 6, and Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 & 11.

### **REMEMBER:**

**“Every group deserves a great leader.”**

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## **Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer**

**Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows** (*choose what fits best*)

**Weekly Vision** (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

*Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).*

**Ask a Hook Question** (*a thought-provoking question*)

What’s the most difficult environment/climate that you’ve had to endure?

**Recap the Message** (*ask a couple people to share*)

**Scripture References** (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

**Acts 8:4** (ESV)

**Implications** (*takeaways from the message*)

1. The Gospel is for Everybody!
2. When people see us, they should notice God’s faithfulness, not our greatness.
3. Just as Philip doesn’t make the Eunuch feel bad for asking questions, we must also create space where people feel comfortable asking hard questions.
4. When we follow God, he will take us to some peculiar places; when we are faithful in those places, we will see God do amazing things.

**Discussion Questions** (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read Acts 8:4 again. What does it mean when Luke writes that they were scattered and what’s the significance of Philip going to Samaria?
2. God called Philip into hard spaces. Where might God be calling you that you are not willing to go because it’s not “easy”? What’s holding you back?
3. Philip embraced the inconvenience of stepping into a hard spot and displayed compassion for the Eunuch. How can you make it more inviting for others to step into hard spaces and have hard conversations?

**Prayer Requests** (*Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.*)

**Closing Prayer** (*ask openly for a volunteer*)