



# Essentials for a Healthy Church:

## Missional Evangelism

Sept. 15, 2019

**Opener:** *What was the last book of the Old Testament you've read all the way thru or spent much time in? How does it point us to Christ?*

### DIG: READ ACTS 8:1-8

- The sudden and massive spread of the faith early on is often credited to the great scattering that took place among the believers. What event(s) brought this about?
- Note the enemies of the gospel at this time... who did they include?
- The Apostle Paul spent his lifetime establishing and building up the church, but how is he described in these passages?
- What did these persecutions result in?
- Note vs. 4... WHY would these believers continue to preach the Word wherever they went after witnessing such horrible persecution?

### READ ACTS 8:26-40

- Note the prompting Philip received to connect with the Ethiopian. Where did it come from?
- Do you think the Holy Spirit still does things like this today? How so?
- What is known about the Ethiopian official? What clues are present in what Philip notices that might give an understanding to the man's openness to the gospel?
- How did the OT text point forward to the Messiah and specifically to Jesus? read Isaiah 53:7-8 if you want.
- What did Philip say to the man that led him to come to belief in Jesus? Do you think this is something you could've done?
- What was the man's automatic response after coming to faith?

### DISCUSS:

A reminder of our working definition of **Missional Evangelism**: *The way of life that intentionally seeks opportunities to share the love of God & the*

*gospel of Christ wherever one goes... whenever one has opportunity... and with whomever the Lord puts in our path.*

- As you've read and perhaps thought more about this, are there any other tweaks or re-wordings of this definition you might suggest?
- We said last week, a key component of this idea of missional evangelism is that it is a WAY OF LIFE. How is that demonstrated in these texts we just read?
- What other elements of these stories stand out to you as important principles of missional evangelism?
- We often read the Ethiopian story with an emphasis on the Ethiopian's decision to be baptized (and we should!) but what might we learn from Philip's openness to the Spirit & willingness to respond to His prompting?
- A key phrase is found in **vs. 4** "... **[they] preached the word wherever they went.**" What might it look like today if you shared the Word wherever you go? Where might that be this week? Today? Tomorrow? Where are the places you go?

Close by praying for the Spirit's prompting among us at Washington Street to always be seeking out opportunities to share God's Word with the people we meet and for greater boldness about preaching this Word wherever we go.

*Continue to pray over the weekend of **November 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We are encouraging each of our Service Groups to come up with a way of serving our community that you can do together. We've heard from several of our groups and some of the great ideas that have raised to the surface. Thank you! Please send in a description of what you plan to do ([jblack@fpunet.com](mailto:jblack@fpunet.com)) so we can let everyone know and invite others to join in. There may be others who would like to pitch in! If your group needs some help identifying a good project you can do together, let us know that, too. Wes & Jim are glad to help.*

**PRAY**