

Crazy Ask Week 2 – Asking Myself What God is Asking Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at <u>info@wschurch.org</u>.

Scripture:

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,

he did not open his mouth.

³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?" ³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:26-39

Reflection Questions:

- What's the craziest question someone has asked you? How did you respond?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God's Spirit speaking to you through the songs, the message, and being with the church?
- If you've been baptized, what are your strongest memories of that experience?
- Read the story in Acts 8:26-39. If you're with others, have someone read it out loud. (Consider having several people read it in several translations.) What do you notice? What surprises you? What challenges you?
- Eddie encouraged us to say, when God asks us to do something, "Nothing will stand in my way." Do you sense God nudging you to be baptized or to respond to him today? Ask yourself, "Why shouldn't I respond to Jesus today?"
- Eddie also shared:
 - That baptism is a response, not a rule
 - \circ that as we are baptized, we are imitating Jesus
 - \circ $\;$ And that as we are baptized, we are obeying Jesus.

Were any of those points clarifying for you?

- Is there something that you need to do in response to God's message? What is holding you back?
- The worship team sang a song, "The One You Love" by Elevation Worship. Listen to it this week and let the words guide your prayer and worship.

"What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are." 1 John 3:1 (Message paraphrase)

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at <u>www.wschurch.org/resources</u>. These resources can be purchased using the links or are available for a small donation at the Next Steps area on Sunday mornings.