
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 17

Small Group Questions: From Spectator to Standout

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Read

Ephesians 2:10; Acts 1:8, 6:1–7 and Acts 8:4–8 and 29–38

Reflect

In Acts, as the church grows exponentially, it also experiences growing pains. There are complaints that it's not helping the Greek Jewish widows as it should. Phillip is among those chosen to be part of a food distribution team for the widows. Whether Phillip has experience or wants to serve in this area, we don't know. But he willingly steps into the role. Have you ever asked yourself if it mattered that you were at church...or if what you were doing to serve, made a difference? Pastor Josh says the church won't reach its full potential without you. What impact does this have on you?

Pastors Josh Surratt offers us three ways to go from spectator to standout:

1. Be willing to do whatever.
 - a. Phillip accepted the role he was given. In Acts 8, what results from his obedience?
 - b. Describe a time when you were placed in a position that didn't seem to fit, but later you realized it was an important stepping-stone? How do you see God's hand in it?
 - i. What need did you step in to fill? What did you learn from the experience?
 - c. Who comes to mind when you think of someone fulfilling needs without accolades?
 - d. Outside the walls of the church, how could you make a greater impact?
 - e. If you want to discover your purpose, are you willing to do whatever is needed?
2. Turn my obstacles into opportunities.
 - a. Serious persecution begins in Acts 8. When Phillip flees Jerusalem, how does he handle the obstacles in his life? How does God use the persecution for good?
 - b. How are you looking at the obstacles in your life?
 - i. When have you been tempted to let persecution define or hinder you?
 - c. Who is a source of encouragement for you to overcome challenges in your life, and why?
 - d. Do you think you should wait until a situation is resolved before sharing it with others? How can it help you and others while still in the midst of a challenge?
 - i. Considering your own life issues, what areas could you be helping others through now?
3. Act quickly on spiritual nudges.
 - a. Phillip saw results in Samaria—bringing people to Christ. But an angel tells him to go to the desert with no explanation. Have you ever felt nudged to leave a role that was fulfilling? Explain.
 - b. When and how have you felt the Holy Spirit nudge you? What were the results?
 - c. Have you ever hesitated, and then sensed you missed an opportunity?
 - d. Phillip sharing the Good News with a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia results in the official getting baptized and probably leading many in Ethiopia to Christianity. When has staying obedient in something small led to something far bigger than you expected?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?