



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Fall Quarter - Lesson 8 - Week of October 27, 2024

### Lesson: THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADING

**Bible Verses:** Acts 8:26-40; Luke 4:18; John 6:63; Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:25;  
2 Peter 1:21; John 14:26; John 16:13

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Do you ever feel lonely?
2. Do you define success differently today from when you were younger?

#### DISCUSSION

*"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is desert. So, he arose and went . . ."* - Acts 8:26-27 (NKJV)

**Reflection:** Some of life's best experiences begin inexpertly. Great opportunities to help someone or work together on a project might be waiting for you. These moments might happen more often if we listen carefully to how God is leading us. Think of a time when you felt compelled to help someone. What did you do to help that person? How would you describe that moment as a divine encounter that God arranged?

**Situation:** Read Acts 8:26-40 (NKJV). Two men named Philip appear in the accounts of the early church. One was a disciple of Christ, and the other was a man chosen along with Stephen to serve the church. Like Stephen, Philip had a way with people. He was also sensitive to God's leading. So it was that he found himself walking along a major road leading south from Jerusalem, through Gaza, toward Egypt and Ethiopia. When he heard the sounds of a traveling caravan behind him, he quickly discovered that God had arranged a special appointment for him.

1. What examples of the Holy Spirit's leading do you see in this story?
2. Why did God ask Philip to leave his preaching and go down a desert road?
3. What was significant about the person Philip encountered on the road?
4. How did Philip handle the opportunity that God gave him?
5. What problem was the man facing when Philip encountered him?
6. What was the result of Philip's obedience to God?
7. What is your appointment from God?

**Inspiration:** We assume that Philip had something we don't. But we have the same Spirit working within us that Philip had. Some of you may not believe it but you are still cautious. You have felt the nudge to go and sensed the urge to speak. Has it not occurred to you that you have been compelled to make certain decisions after consulting the Holy Spirit? When the Holy Spirit gets our attention, we must listen to Him.

**Reaction:**

1. In what ways does God's Spirit lead us?
2. Why is it important to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit?
3. How can you learn to recognize God's voice (Word)?
4. When have you felt the Holy Spirit nudging you? What did you do?
5. What tends to hold you back from obeying that nudging?
6. What is the potential danger of ignoring the Spirit's leading?

**Life Lessons:** Is there anyone you are unwilling to tell about Jesus? Is there any place you are not willing to take the good news? Ask God to give you the same kind of willingness, attentiveness, and courage seen in Philip. Let Him direct you where He wants you to go.

**Four Ways to be Led by The Holy Spirit**

1. Meditate on the Word of God (Joshua 1:8).
2. Be a doer of the Word of God (James 1:22).
3. Put the Word of God above all else (Proverbs 4:20-21).
4. Instantly respond to the Spirit (Proverbs 20:27).

**Devotion:** Father, often we fail to hear You speaking (through the Word) to us. Remind us to be quiet to hear Your voice. May we make decisions based on Your guidance and not according to our goals and desires? But most of all, Father, help us to cherish the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Journaling:** What can you do to listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance today? How ready are you to cooperate if the Word speaks into your life?

**Prayer Focus:** God, help me to listen to the Holy Spirit.