

Theme: Bloom Where You Are Planted

Objective: To spread the word of God wherever God places you

Memory Verse: Either from memory or by looking it up, write out Romans 10:17

Opening Question: Did you have an opportunity to share your story with others in the past week? Or, were there *missed* opportunities to share your story this week?

Read Acts 7:54-8:8

- How would you summarize the emotions of the early Christians over the first few chapters Acts?
- How would you characterize their feelings in the immediate days following Stephan's death?
- How did God use this persecution to spread the word of God?
- When have you turned a difficult situation into a ministry opportunity? When have changes in your life (especially the negative changes) turned in to positive opportunities to share God?
- What do you know about Samaria and Samaritans? Who are the "Samaritans" in your life?
- If Philip was sent to preach in this area, what does that tell us about God's desire for our lives in spreading His Word?

Read Acts 8:26-40

- After great success in Samaria, God sent Philip into a desert. How do you think Philip felt about a successful ministry that God suddenly pulled him from to send him to a desolate place with little opportunity for ministry?
- What does this tell us about how God likes to place us for His work?
- For a plant to grow, there must be a seed (knowledge of God), soil (the right environment), and water (Christ, the Water of Life; something that activates the growth process). How does this story of the Ethiopian eunuch demonstrate each of these elements?
 - The Seed—
 - The Soil—
 - The Water—
- What does this tell us about how God uses us to make others bloom? What do you think was the long term impact of this brief and unexpected encounter?
- Do we always play all three of the elements (seed, soil, and water)?
- **Evangelism Note:** Even when we may be reluctant to share the Gospel with someone in our sphere of influence, God will have (unbeknownst to us) started the process. You may be playing the part of the seed or soil or water.

Application: Think about the people in your life. Identify someone where you can plant the seed; where you can be the soil and take advantage of the environment; where you can be the water and activate the process.

Seed: _____ Soil: _____ Water: _____

Worship: Read Psalms 107:35-38. Praise God for placing us in places to spread the word of God

Prayer Requests

Memory Verse: I Corinthians 3:6—*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."*