

WHITFIELD PARISH
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 12 October 2008

Danger : Church at work! – Room for all
Acts 8.26-40

Our series is called 'Danger: Church at Work!' and now, following on from the story of the commissioning of the seven in Acts 6, we have the story of Philip meeting a man on the road with whom he shares the Good News of Jesus.

Last week we saw the early church valuing three particular aspects of ministry:

- i) The solving of practical issues within the church (Acts 6.1, 3)
- ii) The preaching of the word (Acts 6.2)
- iii) Demonstrating God's grace and power in an unbelieving world (Acts 6.11-14)

Read Matthew 28.18-20

Why did Jesus give this 'Great Commission'?

Remembering the points above, where do these three areas fit into the 'Great Commission', and why?

Read Acts 8.26-40

Philip has been involved in all the areas we have just considered. (6.5, 8.1b-8) Now God is developing his ministry. (8.26-28)

- a) How did Philip come to be on the road to Gaza?

- b) Why was the eunuch on this road?
- c) What do you understand to be happening here?

This man was reading something that drew Philip's attention. In those days reading out loud was the norm. (8.29-33)

- a) What was he reading and what problem was the eunuch having?
- b) Why is it a significant reading?
- c) Did Philip see this as a problem or an opportunity?
- d) You have probably met lots of people as you have travelled but how would you feel in Philip's position meeting this 'stranger' from Ethiopia?

The eunuch responded in a very positive way (8.34-38)

- a) How did the eunuch respond to the explanation?
- b) What happened next and why?
- c) With this story in mind, why isn't sharing your faith with someone a waste of time?

Sharing the faith God as put in our hearts isn't always easy. But every Christian has the Holy Spirit living inside them to help them.

- A. Share with your group what you have learned from this week's and last week's studies that will help you share your faith in the future.
- B. If the members of your group know each other well, share with each other where you see each other's strengths as Christians.
- C. Pray for each other, asking God the Holy Spirit for help to fulfil the 'Great Commission' in our lives.