



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

How God Turned a Band of Nobodies into a Movement for Everybody

How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? How did his movement gain so much momentum, especially as ten of the eleven charter members were crucified, burned, or stoned to death? How did ten thousand Christians become one million by the second century, and 3.3 billion today? Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.

Discussion Guide: Week 12

Opening Question

Name one group, club, or organization you are a part of. What does it mean to belong? What steps did you have to go through to become a member, and what would you have to do to be removed?

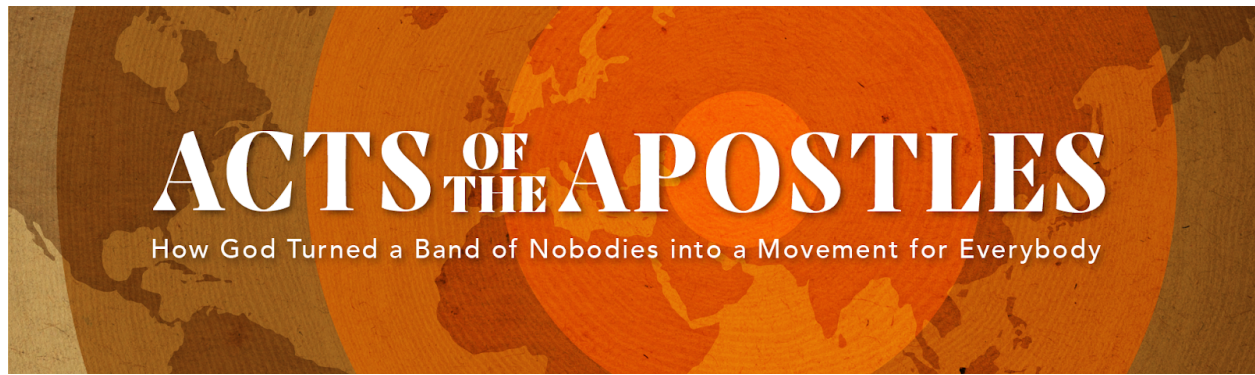
Acts 8:26-40

Who belonged to the first church in Jerusalem that we have read about in Acts 1-7?

Who was Philip? (See Acts 6:5 and Acts 8:4-25)

What can we assume about the Ethiopian man in this story?

Why might the idea of spending time with the Ethiopian eunuch have been complicated for Philip?



What was the Ethiopian reading? Why was it especially significant to him?

What did the Ethiopian man ask Philip? What made his request so extraordinary?

What was Philip's response? What made his quick response so extraordinary?

How many non-Jewish, African Christians were there before this Ethiopian man was baptized by Philip? How many African Christians are there today? What does that say to you about this man's legacy?

Reflection Questions

The difference that Jesus made in the Ethiopian man's life was unmistakable. How would you describe the difference that Jesus has made in your life to this point?

The Ethiopian man demanded they stop the chariot and asked "what is to prevent me from being baptized?" What is preventing you from taking that next step of faith? How can you stop the chariot and do it today?