

EMPOWERED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Empowered Part 6 – Empowered to Share the Gospel **Pastor Dave Patterson** **9.18.2022**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Malachi 3:10-12 (amp)

Bring the whole tithe (the tenth) into the storehouse, that there may be food (provision) in my house. Test (prove) me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Then I will (rebuke the devourer) prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

Acts 6:1-7 (NLT)

But as the believers^[a] rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. ³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”

⁵ Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). ⁶ These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

⁷ So God’s message continued to spread. **The number of believers greatly increased** in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

Ephesians 4:16

He (Jesus) makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work**, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way, home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Phillip was:

1. Filled with the Spirit

2. Led by the Spirit

3. Obedient to the Spirit

“The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

2 Corinthians 5:14b-15,17 -21

We believe that Christ died for all.... He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. **And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.** ²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his

appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,^[d] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask God to fill and lead you with The Spirit. Ask him to help you be obedient as well.
2. This week, ask God to reveal to you what ministry/area you can serve in.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some practical ways to be empowered today?
2. How do you feel about knowing that God has built you for ministry? How do you discover the ministry that God has called you to?
3. Acts 6:1-7, 26-40 What significant about Phillip’s role? How does this apply to us?
4. How are you available to serve God today? Eph 4:16 What is the goal of the church? What is your part?
5. Why was the eunuch a significant man? How do we use his role to make impact and empower?
6. What is The Spirit? Why is it important to be filled with The Spirit?
7. Why is it important to discover what God has you living for? How does this apply to being empowered?