

## Coming Alongside Others

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

As you read the story below, pay attention to all the ways that God is at work behind the scenes. What are all the unusual circumstances and coincidences you can identify?

#### [Read Acts 8:26-39:](#)

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?" <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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.



### Discuss:

- How do you see God's work behind the scenes in this story to bring Philip and the eunuch together?
- What do you notice about how Philip responded to the Spirit's leading in this story?
- How would you describe the spiritual condition of the eunuch prior to meeting Philip? How did Philip assess that condition and how did he act upon that?
- Based on this story, how would you describe the role of a spiritual companion in someone's life? What are they responsible for...and what is God responsible for?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* How are you longing to grow spiritually? Where in your spiritual journey do you feel "stuck?" Like the eunuch, try to identify a spiritual mentor who could walk with you through your questions. Ask them to meet with you in the next couple of weeks to talk and pray together. (If you need help locating a mentor, ask your faculty advisor or another trusted Christian for suggestions.)
- *External:* Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, the Spirit can use you to walk alongside another person. Take a minute in silence and ask God: Whom would you like me to be a spiritual companion to? In the coming weeks, try to meet with that person, ask them about their spiritual journey, and follow the Spirit's leading in how to respond!