



8:26-40

1. Can you remember a time in your life when the Lord Jesus clearly used you in the life of another person? What happened? Were you aware at the time that He was using you?
2. At the beginning of this passage, we see the Lord giving Philip “incomplete guidance” - a command to obey without a clear explanation of its purpose. Do you think this made his obedience difficult? Have you ever had this experience? After Philip obeys the Lord’s initial command, what further guidance does the Lord give him?
3. Consistently throughout the Old Testament, we see God’s heart for those who are outcasts, disadvantaged, or vulnerable. In what ways might the Ethiopian eunuch be considered part of that group? How do you think those qualities might have prepared him for the Lord Jesus?
4. What other Old Testament passages do you think Philip preached after Isaiah 53? How would those passages have had fresh meaning now that Jesus had risen from the dead?
5. Why do you think the text says that Philip “preached Jesus?” How was that an answer to the eunuch’s question in verse 34? How is this an important reminder for us in sharing the gospel?
6. Who first brought up the idea of baptism? How would he have known about that? From verses 38-39, describe how this baptism occurred.

9:32-43

7. There may have been many physically disabled people in Lydda. How do you think Peter knew that Jesus wanted to heal Aeneas? Have you ever experienced a similar leading of the Lord about helping a specific person?
8. A disciple is a student or follower of someone else. In what ways was Dorcas clearly a disciple of Jesus? We often tend to only consider disciples as those who preach, teach, or in other ways speak about God. How does Dorcas challenge that misconception?
9. In question #3, we considered types of people for whom God has a special concern. What two different types of people benefitted from the Lord’s miraculous intervention in the lives of Aeneas and Dorcas? How should this affect our own service for the Lord?
10. What specific opportunities might you have this week in which the Lord Jesus wants to use you? How will you make sure that you are ready for Him to use you?



Jesus the Christ Heals You Leader Notes for Acts 8:26-40; 9:32-43

The Lord Jesus ascended to heaven in Acts chapter one, but He has continued to work throughout the subsequent chapters, building His church just as He promised. This lesson focuses on three individual moments where we are able to witness His work through His saints firsthand.

In chapter eight, the Lord sends Philip, one of the original deacons, to a desert area for a divine appointment with a God-seeking foreign official. Then in chapter nine, Peter goes on a missionary tour of his own and performs two miracles that remind us very much of the actions of the Lord Jesus Himself while He was on earth.

Over the course of these three events, two common threads are evident:

- 1) Jesus is actively working through His disciples to continue the work that He began in the Gospels.
- 2) Those who are served in these events are the same types of individuals for whom the Lord has always given special care: the disadvantaged, the outcasts, and the vulnerable.

We read that the Ethiopian eunuch, a foreigner, had come to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was reading the Scriptures in his chariot. It was likely that he had been refused access to the temple because he was a eunuch (Deuteronomy 23:1). He had traveled over 2000 miles on what was probably a once-in-a-lifetime trip to worship in Jerusalem, and he had not been able to do all that he set out to do. How must he have felt?

Imagine Philip then approaching his chariot and preaching Jesus to him, starting with Isaiah 53. Was it just a coincidence that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading that very passage at the moment Philip approached his chariot? We aren't told what other passages Philip used, other than that he began from "this Scripture." Some possibilities may have included Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Psalm 22:14-18 and 16:10; and 2 Samuel 7:16. Whatever Philip preached must have included the idea of a new believer getting baptized, because it seems the eunuch couldn't wait to take that important step of going into the waters of baptism.

We then see Peter healing a lame man, which he had done before (Acts 3:6-8). But this was the only time we see Peter raising someone from the dead – and then giving that person back to the widows so she could continue her ministry to their needs. While the Lord took Stephen home into heaven to be with Him (Acts 7:55-60), He chose to let Dorcas continue serving Him here on earth for a while longer.

We are left with the exciting conclusion that our Lord indeed continues His active work on earth through His body, the church, as His people are led by the Holy Spirit.

