

## Do You Understand What You Are Reading?

### Questions

Acts 8:26-39

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

*29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 31 He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.*

#### REFLECTION

This week, we reflect on importance of mentors in our lives, as we explore the fourth question in this five-week series. Thomas had a mentor in seminary who had him over for breakfast every Wednesday morning, who first validated that God was part of his story. **Who have been the guides and mentors in your life? How did they validate your story? What attributes did they have?**

In our scripture passage, we encounter Philip who is led by God to seek a eunuch serving the Ethiopian queen, Candace. Philip finds him on the road returning from Jerusalem, reading from the prophet Isaiah. Instead of explaining to him what he was reading, Philip guides him through the passage. The question Philip asks in v.30, "Do you understand what you are reading?" is the question for us this week. **Just like Philip, who might you be called to guide this year?**

Consider and discuss these three points regarding our calling to guide others this year:

- 1) **Calling:** all Christians are called to be apostles of Jesus Christ. Apostle translates to "one who is sent." Apostles disciple and encourage others to follow Jesus.
- 2) **Qualified:** as Philip is uniquely called to this eunuch, God has set you aside for a unique purpose for which you are already qualified. God is already at work in people's lives, He merely needs us to go in as a guide asking more questions than evangelizing.
- 3) The world changes through our **individual encounters**, not big public acts. Pursuing a person, listening, loving, guiding, and praying for them. We can invite someone to coffee and ask questions.

**May we listen to the nudge of the spirit this week on who God is placing in each of our lives, and respond.**