



Unified.  
Empowered.  
Missional.

## WEEK 4 LEADER GUIDE: ACTS 8:4-8:40

This week we see in the aftermath of Stephen’s stoning the church begins to scatter. However, as these believers disperse across the region, they take the preaching of the word with them. This section of Scripture focuses primarily on the ministry of Phillip as he takes the gospel to both Samaria and also the “ends of the earth” in his evangelism to the Ethiopian eunuch. Here we see the beginning of the fulfillment of Christ’s promise in Acts 1:8 – that His disciples will be filled with the Spirit and become His witnesses to Jerusalem, all of Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

One of the themes that will be important to discuss with your group is baptism. Help them note that water baptism followed conversion almost immediately. Sometimes we have a tendency to think we need to have everything fully figured out before baptism, yet these early believers saw it as an immediate display of their salvation through Christ. If you don’t know if everyone in your group has been baptized, perhaps ask them what their thoughts on baptism are. You could say something like, “If you’ve been baptized before, what helped you make that decision? And if you haven’t been baptized, what have been some of the questions you’ve had about baptism?” You can point them to [northway.org/baptism](http://northway.org/baptism) to read and watch a short video from Pastor Scott explaining what we believe about baptism.

Finally, if your group didn’t do the Going Deeper on their own, perhaps take some time to do it in group together. Help them to connect how Scripture is telling one large story that continuously points to our redemption found in Jesus. Spend some time discussing this together. You can ask them “How do you see God’s tenderness towards the Ethiopian? What does this speak to us about the character of God?”

### PRAYER SUGGESTION:

- Phillip allows the Spirit to lead him to those with whom he needs to share the message of Jesus. Have your group consider people in their lives the Spirit might be guiding them towards. Ask them to break up into pairs and share with each other the name of someone that they are praying will come to know Jesus. First ask them to take turns praying for each other – that they will be bold and speak truth as the Spirit leads. Next, ask them to pray for the names they each shared.

### AN INVITATION:

- For anyone considering baptism, encourage them to reach out! They can [register here](#) to talk more with a staff member. We’d love to help them take the next step in their faith!