



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Missional Church	SPEAKER	Elder Goh Hock Chye
THEME	A Lifestyle of Evangelism: Lessons from the Early Church	DATE	26 & 27 February 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the fourth and final instalment of the series on A Lifestyle of Evangelism: Lessons from the Early Church, Elder Hock Chye delved into Acts 8 to draw out lessons from Philip the Evangelist's encounter with an eunuch on his journey from Jerusalem to Gaza.

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

1. GO (to build bridges)

In Acts 8, the Church in Jerusalem was persecuted by Saul, and its members were scattered across different regions. Although Saul sought to destroy the Church, his campaign instead helped to fulfil Jesus' prophecy in Acts 1:8 as the members began to spread the Gospel far and wide.

The word 'go' appears frequently in scripture, most prominently when Jesus told His followers to 'go and make disciples of all nations'. (Matt 28:18). In Philip's case, he was Spirit-led to go to Gaza, a 'desert place', to meet a eunuch and share the Gospel with him. Similarly, we need to take action and go to where the Spirit leads us to because it means we have a special assignment there, an opportunity to build bridges with pre-believers. 'Going' can mean crossing not just geographical, but also cultural and social boundaries.

2. ENGAGE (to understand)

Although the eunuch was a learned, wealthy and powerful man, he was humble enough to admit that he was not able to understand the passage in Isaiah without help. Philip was patient and engaged with him, explaining the Good News. God is always at work—angels are sent to prepare hearts to receive the Gospel (Heb 1:10-14). It is then our duty to be patient, as Philip was, and explain the Gospel to those who are primed to hear it. To quote C.S. Lewis, "the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs."

In Mark 10:17-22, Jesus demonstrates three qualities we should have when evangelising:

- A. Focus: Focus on the person you are reaching out to—maintain eye contact and remove distractions.
- B. Curiosity: Be curious about this person's life story and what God is doing in his/her life.

- C. Insight: Trust the Holy Spirit to give us insight, and to recognise and know the right questions to ask.

3. SHARE (from the heart, appropriately)

We should always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us about our faith (1 Pet 3:15). The goal is not to simply ‘win converts’, but to take the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God. In Philip’s case, he explained to the eunuch how all scripture points to Jesus. The eunuch eventually became a missionary in Ethiopia, as foretold in the Scripture (Ps 68:31).

There are three things we can share with our oikos:

- A. God-stories: We can share stories of how God has come through for us in our own lives— God may use our stories to touch others.
- B. Scripture: Like Philip, we should seek to deepen our understanding of the Scripture in order to better explain it to others.
- C. Gospel: Like Philip, we can share the Gospel with others. There are tools like godtoolsapp.com, Jesus Film app, Fallingplates.com, as well as opportunities like Digital Day outreach, RED project, and New life box that we can leverage on.

CONCLUSION

Everyone is on a spiritual journey. Do not give up on sharing—continue to proclaim the Good News, relate to pre-believing oikos personally and sincerely, and trust God to usher them into the Kingdom in time to come.

QUESTIONS

1. Share a story of your experiences, successful or not, in evangelising to your oikos. You can also share a story of how someone had shared the Good News with you, which led to you accepting Christ.

2. When the eunuch asked for help to understand the passage in Isaiah, Philip was able to explain it to him.
A. What are some common questions your pre-believing friends have about your faith?
B. What struggles do you face in answering them or what answers do you have for them?

3. Elder Hock Chye shared stories of how some BBTicians found novel ways to reach out to the community. With your cell group, come up with ideas for similar activities.