

iWitness - Witness of Water and Word

Introduction:

At the beginning of the book of Acts, before ascending to heaven, Jesus gives his disciples a promise and a task. The promise is that the Holy Spirit will be with them. The task is that they are to take the Gospel from Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. That is to say, from their immediate vicinity to the surrounding region, and all throughout the world. The unfolding of the story of Acts moves from the local to the regional and beyond as the disciples of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit of God, take the message of Good News to the ends of the earth.

Here in Acts 8, an encounter between Phillip and a man from Ethiopia leads to a conversion. Phillip asks a simple question of the man reading scripture, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The conversation leads to a changed life and a baptism, where Jesus shows up in water and his word.

We too are given a task. We are called into the world, from our little towns and cities all the way to the ends of the earth. In the same way, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, to meet people in their questions and doubts with a clear understanding of the story of Jesus: his love and forgiveness. The promise is that he will be there, and we will see it.

Read Your Bible

- Acts 8:26-40
- Luke 24:46-48

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Where are the places you bump into people? What do you most often talk about?
2. When was a time you had a meaningful conversation about Jesus? Who was it with? What did you learn?
3. What makes it hard to talk about faith?
4. What made Phillip bold in his question to the man from Ethiopia? What can we learn from Phillip?
5. Both Phillip and the Ethiopian man ask questions of one another. What big questions do you have about Jesus or about the Bible? Where might you go to get answers?
6. Read the passage from Luke. What does it mean to be a witness?
7. Where is God calling you to be a witness? Who is he calling you to talk to with about Jesus? How will you do that?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord of all, giver of life, we thank you for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, your son. You have entrusted us to take the story of his love and grace into the world. Empower us with your spirit and make us bold in our witness, from here to the ends of the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.