

Week Beginning: 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017

Worship Series: #6 in series

THE  
POWER IN  
THE MOMENT

living sharing growing



lifegroups  
live life abundantly

### Theme Verse

He invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:31b

### Remember This Week

God uses what you have

to fill a need which you never could have filled.

God uses where you are

to take you where you never could have gone.

God uses what you can do

to accomplish what you never could have done.

God uses who you are

to let you become who you never could have been.

That's the power of the Spirit at work in your life in every moment - setting up divine opportunities that not only change individual lives, but impact the world according to God's purpose and plan.



**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone**

Colossians 4:2-6

Lord of the seasons and Lord of the years, our time is in your hands. Help us to see you at work in our lives, organising our schedules and setting up diving appointments to share your hope and life with others. Help us to hear the voice of your Spirit as you call us to go and journey with others and give us the obedience to respond to that call that we may make the most of the opportunities that you give to us. Strengthen us through your Word and this time together that our lives may bring glory to your name. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What was your favourite story as a child? Can you remember why?*
4. *What is the most unusual thing you have been asked to do in your job by a boss - an 'other duty as determined from time to time'?*

It's almost a standard clause in a Position Description. 'Other duties as determined from time to time.' It means that if there are other duties not specified in your PD, that your boss can still ask you to undertake that job if they are reasonable! Did you know that your Christian Position Description includes the same clause? It reads, 'Other locations or duties as the Spirit determines from time to time' or 'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you!' God doesn't care about your qualifications. All he is looking for is your availability to go where he sends, for the divine appointment with others that he has already set up. For in those seeming random encounters, there is power in opportunity, far beyond what we could ever imagine, if we are willing to get up and journey alongside of others and share with them the hope of Jesus.

Read Acts 8:26-40





5. *What stuck out for you or challenged you in what you heard in the text or the sermon?*
6. *What do you already know about Philip (Acts 6:3-6 and Acts 8:4-8) In what ways might this encourage you as you consider God's plan for your life?*
7. *Who directs Philip to this encounter (8:26, 29, 39)? How does God do this today?*
8. *At this present time of your life, would you say you are sensitive or insensitive to God's leading and directing in your life? Give reasons.*
9. *Share a divine appointment that God has set up for you recently. What happened and how was it more than a coincidence?*
10. *How had God been at work in the Ethiopian eunuch even before Philip jogged up next to the chariot? What encouragement does that give in the opportunities that God calls you to?*
11. *What do you find similar in this story to the incident in Luke 24:13-35? What brings understanding?*
12. *What approach does Philip take that leads to an invitation to share? What insight can we take to apply to our own life? (Note: Jesus modelled that approach in John 4:7 & 5:6)*

Developing empathy for others occurs when we move out of our comfortable circles and encounter people who are different from us. As we intentionally get to know people's stories, we will break down barriers and become more inclusive, seeing everyone as integral parts of God's Kingdom. Everyone is at a different point in their journey in life, seeking answers and relief from their hurt. God will give us opportunities to engage with people's stories, extending God's grace right where they are. We need to trust that God has been preparing for this moment and we are the next link in the chain. We do not need to preach at people about what God can do for them. Rather, we need to be open and authentic with people about what God has done in our lives. We are the equipment God uses to bring about His work in that person's life. That's why Paul encourages us time and again, 'Make the most of every opportunity...' (Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:4).

13. *Share an instance in your life where hearing someone's story helped you not only understand things differently, but helped you connect on a deeper level?*
14. *What are key invitations you receive that provide opportunities for deeper conversation?*
15. *The Ethiopian eunuch was reading Isaiah which Philip used to begin telling him "the good news of Jesus". Turn to Isaiah 53:7-8; how would you use this passage to explain the good news of Jesus to an unbeliever?*



16. *What is the difference between a regular conversation and a gospel conversation?*
17. *Who can you engage in a gospel conversation this week?*
18. *How can you better prepare yourself for a future divine appointment? Do you need to pray for more opportunities? Do you need to free up some time to give God room to move? Do you need to become better equipped in sharing the gospel with others? Share.*



- Praise God that his plan for your life is always better than your own and he is doing a lot of pre-work to prepare those to whom he sends you. Thank Jesus for making himself available to be a lamb that was slain to bring salvation, healing and wholeness to the world and your own life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognise his prompting when he sends.
- Pray for an open heart to recognise the appointment the Spirit sets up for you this week and ask for obedience to go and wisdom to make the most of the opportunity,
- "Who is God asking you to get up and sit next to in their journey for truth this week?" Each person share a name/situation they would like prayer for. Spend some time bringing those needs to God in prayer.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:  
**Name, may you go willingly as the Spirit leads. Amen.**