

DIGGING DEEPER

Stepping Out of the Margins and Into the Movement

May 31st, 2026

LEAN IN

- God is at work in all people, pursuing them so that they may come to know Him.
- **Who was the “Phillip” in your life who helped lead you to know and follow Jesus?**

LOOK UP

Main Passage: Acts 8:26-40

Make some observations (What does the text say?):

- Where was Phillip before this (vs 4-8)
- What does the angel tell Phillip?
- What do we learn about the Ethiopian official?
- What is Phillip's starting point for sharing the gospel?
- What are you curious about in this passage?
- Anything that surprised you from this passage?

Make some interpretations (What does the passage mean?):

- Why do you think God directed Philip away from a successful ministry in Samaria to meet one individual on a desert road?
- What does this passage reveal about God's heart for people from different nations and backgrounds?
- Why is it significant that the Ethiopian was reading Scripture but still needed someone to explain it?
- What does Philip's response teach us about obedience and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you think the Ethiopian responded so quickly to the message of Jesus?

- What role does Scripture play in leading the Ethiopian to faith?
- Why do you think Phillip disappears after the baptism?
- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about humanity (our expectations, limitations, or tendencies)?

Now make some applications (What's my response?):

- Are there moments when God may be prompting you to slow down or notice one person in need of encouragement or truth?
- What keeps you from initiating spiritual conversations like Philip did?
- How comfortable are you explaining Scripture or sharing the gospel with others?
- Who in your life may be searching for the truth but needs someone to guide them?
- How can you become more attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in everyday life?
 - What practical step can you take this week to engage someone spiritually?

Reflective Questions

Read Isaiah 53. This chapter is a prophetic passage about the coming Messiah- Jesus!

- What in this passage do you have questions about?
- What stands out to you?
- What inspires you?
- What do you learn about Jesus?

Scripture

- Acts 8:26-40
- Isaiah 53

Prayer Guide for Groups:

Gratitude and Thanksgiving:

- Thank God for who He is and how He is at work in your life.

Listening/ silence:

- Invite God to bring to mind anyone that He wants you to take a more active role with.

Intercession:

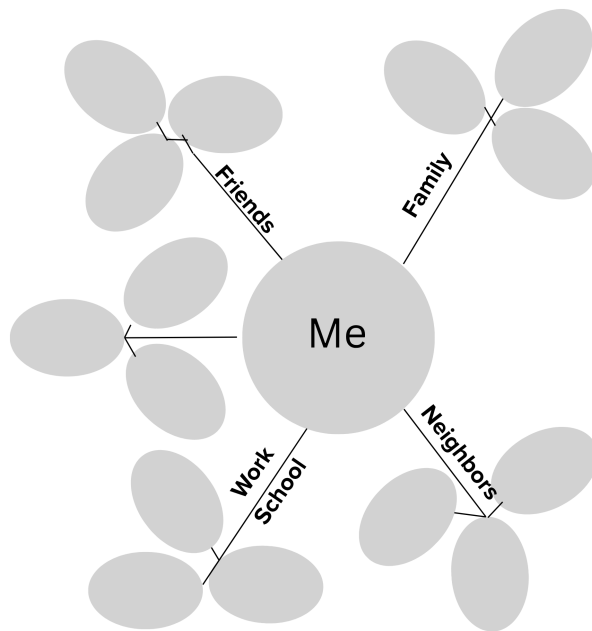
- Who is in your life who doesn't know Jesus? Pray for them and for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with them.

Practice (STEP OUT)

1. Create your Oikos Map

- Oikos is the Greek word for “household.” Many times in the New Testament when people come to faith, they immediately gather their “oikos” and tell them about the decision they made.
 - i. Sometimes it was the community they lived around, like the Samaritan woman in John 4.
 - ii. Sometimes it was their family and close friends, like Lydia and the Philippian jailor in Acts 16.
 - iii. At other times, it was not just their friends and family but those they worked with, like Cornelius in Acts 12.

Who is in your oikos? It is likely God has put you in that place so that you can share the gospel with them and that they in turn could share the gospel as well.



2. Spiritually, where is each person that you've put on your Oikos map? Look at this chart and write the stage they are in beside their name on the map above.

Resistant	Pray for them
Open	Create Interest
Interested	Share your story and the story of Jesus
Considering	Help them make a decision
Faith	Introduce them to Jesus through prayer

3. Take a step this week to begin praying for those on your Oikos Map and take one relational step.