

GOD'S MESSENGERS FOLLOW HIS LEADING

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE MESSAGE - I AM THE MESSENGER

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S MESSENGERS FOLLOW HIS LEADING

Matthew 9:9; 4:19; 8:22; 16:24; John 10:27; 21:22; Acts 16:6-10

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 8:26-27

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship."

BIG IDEAS

- God's sovereign leading doesn't always make sense, but it should result in our obedience.
- God's leading is always an invitation to lean into His Word.
- God's leading should always result in Gospel proclamation and a call to obedience.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 8:26-40

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ that brings salvation to sinners.
- Salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus followers have been trusted with the gospel in order to share it with others.



Every student should strive to...

- Share the gospel each month with at least one person who does not know Jesus.
- Practice sharing the gospel using multiple different tools or methods.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that as believers we have been entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior.
- Satisfied in Jesus as the only true Savior



Every student should want...

- To grow in awareness of the false saviors they are tempted to put their hope in.
- To have a softened heart and love for people who are lost
- To take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with people in their lives who need Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 8:26-27

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship."

God leads His people to do His will.

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza..."

- God redeems His people for His glory. Our redemption involves more than just being rescued from eternal damnation. It's even more than being redeemed so we are no longer separated from God. He redeems us for His purpose and that is to rescue others. God doesn't just redeem us and leave us to figure out how to please Him or how to fulfill His purpose for our lives.
- God equips us for His purpose and He guides us to do it. God is intimately involved in the lives of His people and He has given us His Word as a light to our path and His Spirit works inside of us to lead us in the direction that God would have us go.

God's people should follow where God leads.

"And he rose and went..."

- Philip listened to God's leading. When God sent an angel to direct Philip's path, Philip listened and obeyed. He followed God's leading and didn't question it. God will lead His people in the right way and He will direct them to the path that is the very best for His glory and their good.
- God's people should listen and follow God's direction. God promises to make our paths straight when we acknowledge Him and seek His guidance and not our own.

God leads His people to the lost.

"And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure,"

- The direction that God leads His people will be to the lost of this world because that is God's mission. He redeems His people to be on mission for Him. Believers are the vehicle through which God commands the Gospel to go out into the world.
- Just as Philip was led to the lost Ethiopian eunuch, God leads each of us to lost people in our area. When we seek Him and listen to His guiding, we will find ourselves engaged with lost people and we will be given opportunities to share the Gospel.

GOD'S MESSENGERS FOLLOW HIS LEADING

BIG IDEA #1: GOD'S SOVEREIGN LEADING DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE, BUT IT SHOULD RESULT IN OUR OBEDIENCE.¹

[THIS]

In Acts 8:26, we see God lead Philip to a road that led from Jerusalem to Gaza. At the time, Philip didn't know why the angel of the Lord told him to go to this road. The road was in a desert place, so it wouldn't have made sense to Philip to go there, but he obeyed. When he arrived, he saw an Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot coming back from Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was reading the prophet Isaiah and the Holy Spirit guided Philip to engage the eunuch. The Ethiopian invited Philip to join him in his chariot to explain to him what the prophet Isaiah meant. Philip obeyed and shared the Gospel with the Ethiopian. God's leading doesn't always make sense to us because we are not God. God allows us to know and understand what we need to know and no more or less. Our obedience is required regardless of our depth of information or understanding.

[THEREFORE]

How have you experienced God leading you in a way that didn't make a lot of sense from a worldly perspective?

As humans, we often want tangible evidence before we make decisions. God leads us and often we may not understand His plan or why He's leading us the way He is, but we must always trust. 2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us that our life for Christ is lived by faith and not by sight. This means that we must always trust He is doing what is best for His glory and our good.

[THIS]

Philip obeyed God in every way. Though he didn't have the full picture, he listened to God and went where God led him. This is obedience and this is what is required of each of us if we are to follow God faithfully. We can obey God no matter what when we know and trust that He is sovereign and that all that He does is for our very best.

[THEREFORE]

How can you use an example of a time that you have resisted God's leading to lead into a gospel conversation with a friend?

When we hesitate to obey God because we are waiting for the big picture or because we desire more understanding or information, we are resisting His leading. We may turn to other people and place a higher value on their opinions than God's direction as Acts 5:21 points out. We must obey God's leading no matter what. You can share an experience where you resisted God's leading to tell someone about the goodness of the gospel.

How can you use a time you trusted God's leading and saw Him do more than you ever could have asked or imagined to lead into a gospel conversation with a friend?

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us of the power that is God's. He can and will do more than we could ever imagine. As we trust Him in small things, we can trust Him to lead us to tell others about Him.

What helps you increase your trust of God's leading even when you don't understand it?

2 Timothy 2:13 teaches us that God is always faithful and His faithfulness doesn't depend upon ours. This means that as we trust in Him and choose to obey Him even when we don't understand it, our trust of Him will increase. The more we obey, the greater our faith will increase because we see firsthand that God is always faithful.

1. Acts 8:26: God directed Philip to a desert place, but that place was exactly where God wanted Philip.

GOD'S MESSENGERS FOLLOW
HIS LEADING**BIG IDEA #2: GOD'S LEADING IS ALWAYS AN INVITATION TO LEAN INTO HIS WORD.²****[THIS]**

We know God by knowing His Word, the Bible. In order to truly know Him and His purpose for us, we must know His Word. Philip knew it was God leading him to a road near Jerusalem because He knew God. In order for us to know where and how God is leading us, we must seek Him in His Word. It will be difficult to discern, or understand God's will if we are not in the habit of reading and studying His Word. Philip arrived at his destination and encountered an Ethiopian reading the prophet Isaiah. As we follow God's leading, it will involve His Word. God's Word is given to us to guide us to live a life that glorifies Him and helps us share the Gospel with others. Philip was prepared and ready to meet the Ethiopian because He knew God's commands.

[THEREFORE]

Do you use God's Word to determine how God is leading you? Why or why not?

Proverbs 14:12 shows us that we may think we know the right way, but our way actually leads to our detriment. Proverbs 2:6 and Psalm 119:9 shows us that those who rely upon God's Word and His wisdom found in His Word lead lives that are pleasing to Him. In order for us to really know God's will for our lives, we must consult His Word. His leading will lead us to His Word.

[THIS]

In Acts 8:30-40, the Ethiopian invited Philip to help him understand God's Word as he read the prophet Isaiah. When God leads us to do His will, it will mean we will need to rely upon and lean into the Bible. The Bible is our source of wisdom for every part of our lives. It gives us understanding, making clear what God desires from us and for us. Not only do we grow in our knowledge of God, but we grow in our love for Him. Our love increases our obedience to Him and results in our readiness to follow wherever He leads. Philip followed God's leading and he didn't consider not obeying God. Instead, he trusted God and went where God told him to go without question. As we grow in God's Word, we too will follow God wherever He leads out of our love for Him.

[THEREFORE]

How has your study of the Bible helped you know what God wants from you?

Psalm 119:105 teaches us that God's Word is a lamp lighting our path. As we are in His Word, we will know the direction God is leading us and we will follow Him obediently. Proverbs 6:22 also helps us understand that wherever God leads us, it will involve His Word because His Word is given to us as a guide and a tool to teach us how to bring Him glory.

How can you become more disciplined in reading and studying God's Word this week?

Psalm 90:12 and Ephesians 5:16 teach us to use our time wisely and to walk in the understanding that our days are numbered. We should also understand that we are redeemed for God's glory and we should use our days to honor Him. As we seek to study His Word daily, we will need to sacrifice other things in order to make time to read the Bible.

2. Matthew 4:4: God's Word is profitable for every part of our lives and God has given us His Word as our guide for this life.

GOD'S MESSENGERS FOLLOW HIS LEADING

BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S LEADING SHOULD ALWAYS RESULT IN GOSPEL PROCLAMATION AND A CALL TO OBEDIENCE.³

[THIS]

God's purpose for His people is that they share His truth. God redeems us that we might become His messengers. This means that God is going to lead us to proclaim the Gospel to the world. Philip followed God's leading to a road that led to Jerusalem. There on the road, he met the Ethiopian who did not personally know God. Though God's direction to Philip was to go to a road, He was truly leading Philip to a lost person. Philip obediently shared the Gospel with the man and the Ethiopian was saved. God's purpose on earth is His glory and He is most glorified when people believe in Him. His leading will involve the proclamation of His truth in the world. His leading is not to a better life or to begin some institution or organization. He doesn't lead us to just make the world better. He leads us to share with the world the grace, mercy, and love that compelled Him to send His only Son to die in our place that we might have eternal life.

[THEREFORE]

Do you tend to spend more time thinking about yourself, or who God might want to use you to serve with the gospel? Why?

In Isaiah 43:21, we see a beautiful picture of man's purpose. As we are created to declare God's praise, we will share the Gospel with others because this is our reason for praising Him. Romans 12:1 and Ecclesiastes 12:13 remind us that we are made for God's glory and our lives should be sacrificed to make Him known. God's will involves our being His ambassadors and messengers.

[THIS]

When Philip shared the Gospel with the Ethiopian, he called the Ethiopian to make a decision. Did he believe the Gospel or not? Philip did this by sharing the next step after belief, baptism. The Ethiopian heard the Gospel, believed it, and then obeyed by being baptized. Part of the Gospel proclamation is asking people to decide if they believe it or not and then calling them walk in obedience by being baptized. Baptism is an outward sign of the transformation that has occurred inside because of the blood of Christ. The Ethiopian is a picture of this because he heard the Gospel, believed it, and then showed the world that his heart had been made new. God will lead us to do just as Philip did. He will lead us to share the Gospel and then call people to make a choice about it. This is God's will for our lives and this is how He will lead us. We do not have to wonder or question if God wants us to share the Gospel. We can always know that God does and will lead us to share the Gospel.

[THEREFORE]

Do you desire to follow Christ's leading? Why or why not?

John 14:15 and 2 John 1:6 show us that if we love God, we will obey Him and walk according to His plan. If we desire to follow Christ, we reveal that we love Him. If we do not desire to follow Him, we reveal that our hearts are following after our flesh and the world. We grow in our desire to follow Him as we grow in our knowledge of Him.

What distracts you or keeps you from asking people to follow God in obedience to His Word?

Often, fear keeps us from sharing the Gospel in the first place and from asking people if they believe it or not. We often fear what man thinks more than God and fall prey to not fully sharing the Gospel with people.

3. Acts 8:35-39: Philip shared the Gospel with the Ethiopian and then baptized him. The leading of God is to tell others the truth and call them to obey God's Word.