

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Conversion 1

July 6-10, 2019

The tragedy of persecution provides the trajectory of the mission into the world. In the great adventure of God's mission, sometimes tough times open new doors of opportunity. Let's consider what spirit-led, people honoring evangelize can look like today. It's time to share the Good News, not just good advice.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 8:26-40

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The early part of this chapter, if you're the early church at the time, is a disaster: you're being persecuted by Jewish religious leaders, you're not really being protected by the secular authorities, this is compounded by the fact that by joining this movement, you've pretty much cut yourself off from your family, and now even the people who worship differently than you dislike you because the message you preach is leading people away from their belief system. In some cases we talk to people about living out their faith, they often point to how clear it was for the people in the Bible and how vague God's leading is in their daily life. This set-up in chapter 8 should hopefully put a pin in that idea. Being a Christian has always included some searching. In the same way, it has also included those flashes of clarity like we see in this text. Phillip is told by God to follow this chariot where he hears the man reading the from Isaiah. All Phillip needs to do is be ready to respond.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Put yourself in Phillip's shoes...would you have responded as he did? Why or why not?
- What are some opportunities God has given you to share the Good News?
- What is the difference between Good News and good advice? Share some examples.
- Have you ever had a time, like Peter's, that you felt a nudge from the Spirit to share the Good News?
- Phillip was ready to respond to God. How do we know if we are ready to respond?

APPLICATION: This week, tune into the Spirit within you. What steps do you need to take to prepare to respond to God's call to share the Good News?