

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

EMPOWERED – Session 6

Empowered Beyond Our Boundaries

Acts 8:26–40

SESSION FOCUS

The Holy Spirit continually leads believers beyond fear, assumptions, comfort, and familiar boundaries.

Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch reminds believers that God is often already at work beyond the places we expect.

This session explores how the Holy Spirit forms humility, attentiveness, listening, and openness toward people who may feel unfamiliar or overlooked.

The goal is not ideological debate.

The goal is learning how Spirit-led believers move toward people with compassion, discernment, and humility.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments before beginning.

- Why do people naturally create boundaries and categories?
- What assumptions shape the way people view others?
- Why can unfamiliar situations or people create discomfort?
- What makes listening difficult?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Acts 8:26–40 slowly.

As you read, notice:

- how the Holy Spirit leads Philip
 - how Philip responds
 - and what changes throughout the story.
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KEY IDEA

The Holy Spirit often stretches believers beyond comfort, assumptions, and limited understandings of where God is at work.

PART 1: THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERRUPTS ROUTINES

(Acts 8:26)

Philip leaves familiar ministry to follow the Spirit's leading into the desert.

Reflection Questions

1. Why are interruptions often frustrating?
2. How does busyness affect spiritual attentiveness?
3. What helps people become more responsive to God's leading?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: MOVING TOWARD PEOPLE

(Acts 8:27–28)

The Holy Spirit intentionally leads Philip toward someone he may otherwise have overlooked.

Reflection Questions

4. Why do people naturally gravitate toward familiarity?
5. What assumptions can quietly shape churches or communities?
6. Why does the Holy Spirit continually move outward toward people?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: LISTENING BEFORE SPEAKING

(Acts 8:29–35)

Philip begins with questions and attentiveness.

Spirit-led witness begins with listening.

Reflection Questions

7. Why is listening often difficult?
8. How does listening build trust and understanding?

9. What is the difference between faithful witness and trying to control conversations?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPANDS THE CHURCH

(Acts 8:36–40)

The Gospel continues moving outward beyond familiar boundaries.

Fear pushes inward.

The Holy Spirit moves outward.

Reflection Questions

10. Why does fear often make communities more closed?

11. What might Spirit-led welcome look like today?

12. How can believers remain both discerning and compassionate?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect honestly.

- Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you beyond comfort or assumption?
- How do fear or unfamiliarity shape your reactions to others?
- What would greater attentiveness and humility look like in your relationships?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for:

- humility
 - compassion
 - wisdom
 - attentiveness
 - and openness to the Holy Spirit.
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OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week:

- Re-read Acts 8:26–40 daily
- Practice intentional listening in one conversation
- Reflect on quick assumptions or reactions
- Pray:

“Holy Spirit, help me become more attentive to where You are already at work.”

FINAL THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit continually moves beyond the boundaries people naturally create.

Spirit-led living requires humility, attentiveness, compassion, and willingness to move where God leads.

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