



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of Aug 29 – Sep 4, 2015  
Lesson #10: **Biblical Missionaries**

## **SABBATH – Philip as Missionary**

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(Memory Text) **Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

What was the first thing the apostles did after receiving the Holy Spirit? Immediately they went out and started witnessing. What they received they gave.

Notice the process:

(John 7:37-39) In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The first step is to come to Jesus and drink the living waters that He has. When our belly is full we then go out and give people the water that we received from Jesus. It's his water that he imparts to us. The Spirit will guide and direct us in our missionary efforts.

### **The Greatest Sign**

What is one of the greatest signs that we have the Holy Spirit? It is the fact that we're working for Jesus. The fact that we drink from the water that Jesus gives. The fact that we drink from the truth that he gives and we share it with whomever. This is one of the greatest signs that a person has the Holy Spirit.

We should ask ourselves if we are giving Bible studies and talking with people about the Lord. Do we invite our friends and relatives to church? Do we bring them to evangelistic meetings?

When a soul is lost - it is something that is lost forever - it is irreplaceable.

That one person is so unique - he cannot be replaced.

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 187) The soul is of infinite value. Its worth can be estimated only by the price paid to ransom it. Calvary! Calvary! Calvary! will explain the true value of the soul.

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 193-194) The soul is of infinite value and demands the utmost attention. Every man who fears God in that office should put away childish and vain things, and, with true moral courage, stand erect in the dignity of his manhood, shunning low familiarity, yet binding heart to heart in the bond of Christian interest and love.



And yet we come in contact with people every day and what do we talk about? Football, basketball, what was on the television the night before, or the latest video game? Do we even give it any thought that Jesus would have died for that one person?

### SUNDAY – Philip the Evangelist

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(2 Corinthians 4:18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### MONDAY – Waiting on Tables

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A glimpse of the early church:

(Acts 2:44-47) And all that believed were together, and **had all things common**;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And **they, continuing daily with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat **with gladness and singleness of heart**,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

According to these verses the early church was:

1. Had all things common
2. Were in one accord.
3. They had gladness in their heart

Paul counsels us to be of one accord – this would even include in doctrine.

(1 Corinthians 1:10) Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church today is a long way from being on one accord and speaking the same thing. The Women's Ordination issue has really divided the church on a grander scale. But there is no need to worry as God is in control and these events do not take him by surprise.

(Selected Messages, vol. 2, pp. 113) The work to be done now is that of sounding this last message of mercy to a fallen world. A new life is coming from heaven and taking possession of all God's people. **But divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.**

(Selected Messages, vol. 3, pp. 422-423) We are nearing the close of this earth's history, when **two parties alone can exist**, and every man, woman, and child will be in one of these armies. **Jesus will be the General of one army; of the opposing army, Satan will be the leader.** All who are breaking, and teaching others to break, the law of God, the foundation



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of His government in heaven and in earth, are marshaled under one superior chief, who directs them in opposition to the government of God. And “the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation” (Jude 6) are rebels against the law of God, and enemies to all who love and obey His commandments. These subjects, with Satan their leader, will gather others into their ranks through every possible means, to strengthen his forces and urge his claims.

Through his deception and delusion, Satan would, if possible, deceive the very elect. His is no minor deception. He will seek to annoy, to harass, to falsify, to accuse, and misrepresent all whom he cannot compel to give him honor and help him in his work. His great success lies in keeping men’s minds confused, and ignorant of his devices, for then he can lead the unwary as it were, blindfolded....

The fact that two parties have clearly formed in the church in one sense should bring us gladness in our hearts because this tells us that we are in the very final moments of earth’s history and that Jesus’ Second Coming is very imminent.

**Acts 6:1-7** is highlighted for discussion in the lesson and asks the question “What problems arose, and how did the church deal with those problems?”

(Acts 6:1) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the **Grecians** against the Hebrews,...

This word “Grecians” is the Greek word “Hellenistes” – which we get the word “hellenistic” from. These are not Greeks in the normal sense of the word. They are Hebrews that were spread out all over the Roman Empire. They did not live in Jerusalem except that they came back. They were Jews but they had lost the ability of speaking Hebrew and also probably lost some of the strict Hebrew practices and customs. They did not have the temple near them, the very strict Scribes and Pharisees were not there, they were probably what you would call more liberal.

The Strong’s Concordance definition of “Hellenistes”

- “1) one who imitates the manners and customs or the worship of the Greeks, and use the Greek tongue
- 1b) used in the NT of Jews born in foreign lands and speaking Greek”

The Hebrews mentioned would be the Palestinian Hebrews – the ones who lived in Jerusalem and whose religious life revolved around the temple. In other words they were much stricter.

- (1) ...because their widows (of the Hellenistic Hebrews) were neglected in the daily ministrations.

In other words they were playing favorites.

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.



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“Tables” – This means the administrative work of the church. Remember when Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers – the word “tables” means people who do financial transactions. The apostles were saying we need someone else to be the treasurer and handle the financial affairs.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

The ones being appointed are Hellenistic Jews – it says from among them (or from among you – meaning the Hellenistic Jews).

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and **Philip**, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Verse 5 is the first time Philip (the evangelist) is mentioned.

And now notice what happens as a result of the apostles doing what they’re supposed to be doing and the deacons handling the administrative affairs.

7 And **the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

The immediate antecedent to Stephen being brought before the Sanhedrin (which is what happens next) is a tremendous growth in the Christian faith. Not only among the common people but also among the priests also.

We all have our “part” to perform in the spreading of the gospel to the world. Some may be on the “front lines” while others may be “behind the scenes.” Regardless of whatever work God has placed us in – it is all needed and necessary for the completion of the work.

## TUESDAY – Philip in Samaria

After Stephen was stoned a great persecution of the church came and this scattered everyone in different parts. As the lesson points out this only helped the missionary work.

Philip (as well as others) went to Samaria and were welcomed and found refuge. Remember the Samaritan woman at the well that Jesus met with? She was so excited after accepting Jesus that she went back to Samaria and told everyone and the Bible says “many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified.” (John 4:39) There is no doubt, because of this Samaritan woman, this is why they were welcomed in Samaria.

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 106) Christ’s message to the Samaritan woman with whom He had talked at Jacob’s well had borne fruit. After listening to His words, the woman had gone to



the men of the city, saying, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? They went with her, heard Jesus, and believed on Him. Anxious to hear more, they begged Him to remain. For two days He stayed with them, “and many more believed because of His own word.” John 4:29, 41.

And when His disciples were driven from Jerusalem, some found in Samaria a safe asylum. The Samaritans welcomed these messengers of the gospel, and the Jewish converts gathered a precious harvest from among those who had once been their bitterest enemies.

It is so important to even make efforts to preach to those who consider themselves our enemies.

### WEDNESDAY – With the Ethiopian

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The lesson brings out that all Philip did with the Ethiopian was study the Bible. God set up the encounter between Philip and this man from Ethiopia.

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 107) While Philip was still in Samaria, he was directed by a heavenly messenger to “go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza.... And he arose and went.” **He did not question the call, nor did he hesitate to obey; for he had learned the lesson of conformity to God’s will.** “And, behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.”

How important is it for us to conform to God’s will and not hesitate when He bids us to go here or there?

The Ethiopian was studying prophecy and needed guidance in the Scriptures.

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 107) Philip was directed to go to the Ethiopian and explain to him the prophecy that he was reading. “Go near,” the Spirit said, “and join thyself to this chariot.” As Philip drew near, he asked the eunuch, “Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.” The scripture that he was reading was the prophecy of Isaiah relating to Christ: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in His humiliation His judgment was taken away: and who shall declare His generation? for His life is taken from the earth.”

Prophecy is a tremendous faith builder. If many of us were in Philip’s shoes would we be able to help the Ethiopian man in explaining the prophecies? How important is it to know what we believe because we never know when we will be called to assist someone in the Scriptures.

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:



Philip did not stop at just explaining prophecy to the man:

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 107) Then Philip opened to him the great truth of redemption. Beginning at the same scripture, he “preached unto him Jesus.”

Knowing prophecy without the one who is the center of prophecy is meaningless.

(Evangelism, p. 185-186) More people than we think are longing to find the way to Christ.

**Those who preach the last message of mercy should bear in mind that Christ is to be exalted as the sinner’s refuge.** Some ministers think that it is not necessary to preach repentance and faith; they take it for granted that their hearers are acquainted with the gospel, and that matters of a different nature must be presented in order to hold their attention. But **many people are sadly ignorant in regard to the plan of salvation; they need more instruction upon this all-important subject than upon any other.**

Theoretical discourses are essential, that people may see the chain of truth, link after link, uniting in a perfect whole; but **no discourse should ever be preached without presenting Christ and Him crucified as the foundation of the gospel. Ministers would reach more hearts if they would dwell more upon practical godliness.**

The Ethiopian accepts Christ and is baptized

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 108) The man’s heart thrilled with interest as the Scriptures were explained to him; and when the disciple had finished, he was ready to accept the light given. He did not make his high worldly position an excuse for refusing the gospel. “As they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. {AA 108.2}

“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.”

**Is there a lesson in this for us?**

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 109) This Ethiopian represented a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip—men who will hear the voice of God and go where He sends them. There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.

An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts. The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God’s way of working. It is His plan that men are to work for their fellow men.



### THURSDAY – Philip as Evangelist, Father, and Host

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(Acts 21:7-10) And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

We learn from these verses the following about Philip:

1. He was an evangelist – he went around and preached the word, leading people to Jesus.
2. He was hospitable as he invited people into his house – even to stay for several days.
3. He was a family man as he had 4 daughters who were virgins.
4. He seems to be a good role model for men.
5. He was a forgiving man

Philip the evangelist went where God directed him. This would cause him to leave his home (and family) for periods of time. The fact that the Bible specifically mentions his daughters as being virgins is an indication that he raised his children in the fear of God.

With such little information about this man we can get a strong glimpse of what a man of God he was.

A very interesting and inspiring quote from the Spirit of Prophecy:

(Life Sketches of Paul, p. 204) **Philip the evangelist was bound to Paul by ties of the deepest sympathy.** A man of clear discernment and sterling integrity, Philip had been the first to break away from the bondage of Jewish prejudice, and thus had helped prepare the way for the apostle's work. It was Philip who preached the gospel to the Samaritans; it was Philip who had the courage to baptize the Ethiopian eunuch. For a time the history of these two workers had been closely intertwined. It was the violent persecution of Saul the Pharisee that had scattered the church at Jerusalem, and destroyed the effectiveness of the organization of the seven deacons. The flight from Jerusalem had led Philip to change his manner of labor, and resulted in his pursuing the same calling to which Paul gave his life. **Precious hours were these that Paul and Philip spent in each other's society; thrilling were the memories that they recalled of the days when the light which had shone upon the face of Stephen upturned to Heaven as he suffered martyrdom, flashed in its glory upon Saul the persecutor, bringing him, a helpless suppliant, to the feet of Jesus.**

Paul, the one who formerly persecuted the church fiercely and split them up is now at Philip's house and they bound together by Christ. They are obviously very close friends. It's a miracle how God can take a killer – a persecutor of the church of God and turn that person around as Jesus did with Saul of Tarsus. Do we ever think of how the Lord has done this for us?