

ADVENTURING WITH GOD: Following in the Apostles' Footsteps

Reaching Our World

Acts 1:1–11



LET'S BEGIN HERE

The apostles certainly had their share of adventure! After receiving the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, they embarked on the journey of a lifetime. Empowered and emboldened by the Spirit, they preached the gospel and performed extraordinary miracles, touching others' lives as they went. Let's take a look at how they effectively ministered to others so we can discover some positive principles to use in our own lives.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. The Apostles' Ministry

The Holy Spirit empowered the new Christian community to boldly tell others about salvation through Jesus Christ. The cost of this boldness was twofold: the church grew steadily, and the new Christians found themselves hunted down, imprisoned, dispersed, or martyred for their faith.

2. Philip's Ministry in Samaria

In Acts 8, Philip was guided by the Spirit to travel from Samaria to Gaza—from a Samaritan crowd to a Gentile audience of one.



Quotable

*The deep work of
the Holy Spirit
in our lives is
what gives us
the gumption to
stay at it.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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3. Philip's Ministry to the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:25–40)

When God called Philip, the apostle exhibited a willing heart and a go-for-it attitude, even though he didn't know exactly what the Lord had in mind. Philip set an excellent example of how to touch the lives of other people for God's glory. Here are six principles that we can glean from his example.

Sensitivity: The Lord told Philip to go, and he got up and went. The fact that he *heard* and then *obeyed* shows his sensitivity to God's leading.

Availability: Philip submitted his actions to God after hearing Him. In order to be sensitive to the Lord, we must be available to do or to say or to be whatever He requires.

Initiative: Philip observed the Ethiopian eunuch and then proceeded to strike up a conversation. Philip's question, "Do you understand what you are reading?" changed that eunuch's life.

Tactfulness: Philip waited until he was invited before he climbed up in the man's chariot. He listened to the eunuch's questions and answered them without judgment or condescension.

Preciseness: Philip stayed on-topic, and the topic was Jesus.



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Decisiveness: Philip encouraged the Ethiopian eunuch to make a definitive commitment to Jesus Christ.



LET'S LIVE IT

Life is full of magnificent adventures: mountains to climb, frontiers to tame, records to break, goals to surpass.

But, the greatest adventure by far that the Lord has in store for His children is the opportunity to touch the lives of others. Think about it: it's quite likely that you're reading this because at some point in your life, someone cared enough about you to share the gospel with you!

The privilege of making an eternal impact by introducing people to the life and the person of Christ is the most significant undertaking a Christian can hope for. Adventure awaits, whether on your morning commute or cross-country flight or even just across the street.

Will you pray for God to use you to touch the life of another?



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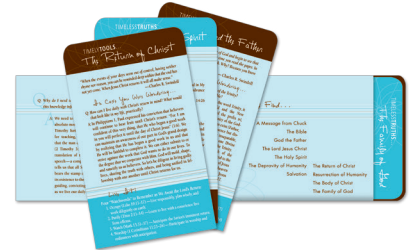
Tools for Digging Deeper



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