

## Living Stones — Philip Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What's one of your favorite places you have visited?
2. How many different languages can you understand?

**Read the following passages:** Acts 6:1-6; 8:1-5, 26-40; 21:7-9.

When some of the widows among the Hellenistic Jewish believers were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food, Philip was one of the men chosen to address the problem. As we meet Philip throughout the book of Acts, several striking qualities emerge: Philip saw people; he crossed barriers; and he listened to God and to people. If we want to love people well, we need these same qualities in our lives.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some of the ways we miss people even when they're right in front of us? Explain why the emotions behind someone's words are just as important, or maybe even more important, than the words themselves. Why do you think we so often miss what others are trying to communicate to us?
2. How did the persecution after the martyrdom of Stephen end up advancing the mission of the church? Read Romans 8:28. How can this promise practically help us when we're facing very challenging circumstances? Do you believe that God is working for your good even when you are sad or overwhelmed? Explain.
3. Generally speaking, are you content where you are, or are you hoping for or actively working towards some significant changes in your life? Explain. Do you feel you are taking advantage of the opportunity to live for God right where you are right now? Explain.
4. All kinds of barriers divide people in our culture: ethnicity, political commitments, economic status, age, and many others. What is one barrier you regularly experience with the people around you? What might it look like to cross that barrier?
5. What is one nation, other than the United States, you would be interested in helping to take the Gospel to? Explain.
6. Philip listened to an angel, the Holy Spirit, and then an Ethiopian official. That listening resulted in an invitation to sit together to discuss the Scriptures. What does it look like to listen to others well? Why is listening well important?

7. Philip hosted Paul in his house, even though Paul was one of the men responsible for the murder of Philip's friend, Stephen. Why is forgiving others important? What does forgiveness look like if the other person isn't acknowledging their wrongdoing? Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Explain.
8. Are you praying about making a financial commitment to the Living Stones campaign? What does it look like to take a step of faith without taking on a false burden?

## **Pray**