

Living Stones - Philip

South Jersey Small Group Guide

Warm-Up Questions

1. What's one place in your life that feels especially full right now—your schedule, your emotions, or your mental space?
2. When you think about the word “belonging,” what's the first experience—positive or negative—that comes to mind?

Key Passage: Acts 6:1-6; Acts 8:4-5, 26-38; Acts 21:8-9

Recap

In this message, we explored how the early church grew—not just in numbers, but in depth, courage, and reconciliation. Through the life of Philip in the book of Acts, we saw a picture of what it looks like to *make room*: room for overlooked widows, room for despised Samaritans, room for a searching Ethiopian eunuch, and even room for reconciliation with someone connected to deep personal pain. Philip wasn't chosen because he was impressive, but because he was willing to see people and cross barriers with humility and obedience.

As Freedom Church looks toward expansion—launching new locations and preparing for future growth—we were reminded that diversity in the room is only the starting line. The real work begins when we make room in our lives: for relationships that challenge us, for repentance where needed, and for reconciliation that requires proximity, patience, and grace. Repentance, we learned, doesn't look the same for everyone—but it is an invitation for all of us into deeper freedom and formation. The question before us isn't just *how many people will come*, but *who are we willing to make room for*.

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

1. Philip consistently noticed people others overlooked. Who are some people or groups you're most likely to overlook—or keep at a distance—in your own life? Why do you think that is?
2. The sermon emphasized that diversity in the room is only the beginning. What do you think it looks like to move from diversity to genuine shared life and reconciliation?
3. Which category of repentance resonated with you most: repenting of harm or bias, repenting of what pain has done to you, or repenting of fear? Why?
4. Philip crossed barriers of culture, power, and personal history. What barriers feel hardest for you to cross right now—emotionally, relationally, or spiritually?
5. The message said, “Reconciliation doesn't happen in theory. It happens in proximity.” What might proximity look like for you in this season—practically and realistically?
6. Was there a moment in the sermon that made you uncomfortable or challenged an assumption you've carried? What was stirred up in you?

7. As Freedom Church prepares to expand, how do you personally feel invited to ‘make room’—in your schedule, your relationships, or your heart?

8. What would it look like for this group to practice making room together—not just talking about it, but living it out over time?

Pray