

/IM-PAKT/

Sermon "Leave" 9-22-13 **Leader Guide**

THE WIN

Group members should understand that **for some**, following Jesus means to go into cross-cultural missions.

Tip: Keep this in mind as you plan out your session, and your time as a group will be much more focused.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Tip: You may want to start this section by showing this video found here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmr76rSs6UA>

READ THIS ALOUD:

God desires that all of us be willing to say to Him, "I'll go where you want me to go."

We learned in the message on Sunday that:

- 1) God says 'Get up and go'
- 2) Philip, Peter, Cornelius, Saul/Paul, Timothy and many others throughout history have obeyed the call.
- 3) 7,162 unreached people groups equaling 43% of the world's population in the 10/40 window.

10
minutes

WARM UP

These questions are designed to stretch group members' thoughts on cross-cultural missions.

ASK THIS:

- a. Of the missionary stories we heard on Sunday, which had the most impact on how you view your call to being a missionary?
- b. What nation or people group has touched your heart, prompting you to go and help meet their needs and share the love of Jesus?
- c. If you were to use your vacation to go to these places, how would you use your time and resources to get the most impact?
- d. What action would you take if money and time were not issues? Dream big!

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Tip: Keep in mind your job is not to explain the Scripture passage; this was already done this in the sermon. Focus on providing an environment where people can engage the text and then wrestle with how it affects them. Use these questions or write your own. Lastly, the goal is not to complete all the questions, but rather to provide a safe environment and facilitate a conversation.

Have someone in the group read the text aloud:

Acts 8:26-40

DISCUSS and CHALLENGE:

1. In this passage God uses an angel and the Holy Spirit to invite Philip into a mission assignment and Philip obeys God's call immediately. The position of Philip's heart to hear God is crucial; he was close enough to know God's voice in his life. This is the foundation of all missionary work! "I could hear the Holy Spirit telling/calling me to action".
 - a. **What spiritual disciplines do you think helped Philip hear and respond to God's call?**
 - b. **How do you know when God calls you to do something?**
 - c. **Have you ever heard God's call on your life to do something for Him? What was the call?**
 - d. **Did you share your call with a spouse or close friend? How did they respond?**
 - e. **Did you respond like Philip and act immediately? Describe your decision making process on whether to obey or not.**

2. Philip was willing to risk embarrassment by interrupting the Ethiopian high official, travel in a direction he wasn't planning and sacrifice his time to obey the call of God.
 - a. **What are the risks we as American Christians face by going into foreign countries?**
 - b. **Is there any mention in scripture for Christians to live safe, comfortable lives?**
 - c. **What are the complications of traveling to a foreign country and ministering to people from different cultures?**
 - d. **Describe a time when God interrupted your life or took you out of your comfort zone.**
 - e. **Does God's Calling cause you fear and anxiety? Why**

3. God is ready to use us just as we are in missions. However, we are obliged to continue our spiritual development and be willing to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures. Philip was prepared to explain how the Scripture in Isaiah was fulfilled through Jesus. Acts 8:35 says, "So Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning from that Scripture."
 - a. **What would you say to someone who asked you, "How can I receive Jesus into my heart?"**
 - b. **What Scripture could you share that deal with salvation and forgiveness of sins?**
 - c. **Just as God prepared Philip and the Ethiopian for this encounter, how do you feel God has uniquely equipped you to serve in a mission opportunity?**

DO THIS

This exercise is intended to reveal how God has uniquely equipped each of us for missions and how we can fulfill our purpose doing tasks we enjoy.

Leader:

- Pass out 3x5 card or other small pieces of paper

Directions:

- Ask members to write the answer to this question "What is your favorite ability, skill or talent?"
- Collect the answer cards
- Read the first answer aloud and ask the group to come up with ways the ability, skill or talent could be used in missions

Continue in the same manner with the rest of the answers

ASK THIS:

- a. What would be some of the advantages of our life group going on a mission trip together?
- b. What fears about missions could be alleviated by going as a life group?

10
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

READ AND DISCUSS:

THE 10/40 WINDOW



The core of the unreached people of our world live in a rectangular-shaped window! The window extends from West Africa to East Asia, from ten degrees north to forty degrees north of the equator. This specific region, which has increasingly become known as *The 10/40 Window*, encompasses the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. These People have no exposure to the gospel and are the poorest of the poor. On average, they exist on less than \$500 per person per year. Although **4 billion** of these people live within *The 10/40 Window*, **only 4%** of all missionaries work among them.

ASK THIS:

What can our life group do together to make a difference in this area? Hint: Pray, Give, Go

CLOSING THOUGHT

SAY THIS:

At The Church on Rush Creek, we want to engage contagious followers of Christ in ministry that reaches beyond our immediate cultural context. We believe that the call to make the gospel known among the nations is one that applies to all believers, playing a crucial role in personal discipleship and spiritual growth. We facilitate numerous mission experiences throughout the year, providing opportunities for Christ followers to make global impact.

For upcoming Rush Creek mission trips: <http://www.rushcreek.org/ministries/community-outreach/missions>

For more information on mission trips contact Brian McFadden at brianm@rushcreek.org