

Front Lines & Fatherhood

“Living Large”, part 9, Insights from Acts 7:17-60
Pastor Bob Johnson, June 18th, 2023

Truths About Frontline Ministry:

1. Every Follower is ...

(2 Corinthians 5:17-20, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Peter 3:15)

God calls us not to be passive but ...

2. Strong Feelings are ...

(Acts 8:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13)

God calls us not to bury them but ...

3. All Dad’s desire their kids ...

(Acts 8:14-25, Acts 2, Acts 10)

God calls us to focus on ...

4. Philip’s Four-Fold Example:

(Acts 8:26-40, Galatians 4:24-25)

- **Walk with Jesus ...**
- **Start where ...f**
- **Wait for ...**
- **Focus on ...**

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our ninth week of our 10 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives. Our last week in this small group season will be next week before we take a summer break.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Acts 8, Philip and the rest of the Jesus followers had to leave Jerusalem quickly. Speaking of leaving quickly, if you had to leave your home in a matter of minutes (due to a fire or emergency), what would you take with you? What is one thing you most likely wouldn't take with you, but you would really miss if you had to live without it?

The second of the four truths highlighted last Sunday had to do with our feelings. Strong feelings are part of us. Speaking of feelings, when did you have a strong feeling (happy or sad)?

What caused it and if was on the sad side, what helped you begin to deal with the sadness?

The third of the four truths highlighted from last Sunday was the importance of family unity. That is why God wanted the Samaritans in Acts 8 and the Gentiles in Acts 10 to have a similar experience with the Holy Spirit as the Jews had in Acts 2. Family unity is not the same as family uniformity where every family member is the same.

Speaking of how families are made up of members that are quite different at times, how are you like your other family members (parents, brothers and sisters) and how are you different?

Another truth that was highlighted last Sunday was 'God calls us not to be passive but prepared and proactive.'

Speaking of being proactive, when have you showed some intentionality and initiative to change or improve something in your life?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Acts 8:1-40)

After reading these chapters and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday we read and reflected on how God desires his people (his kids) to get along. Jesus' last prayer before his arrest and crucifixion is recorded in John 17.

Let's read John 17:16-26. What insights can we observe related to God's heart for us? How can we pray for our church and ourselves based on how Jesus prayed for us?

2. In Acts 8, using Philip as an example when it comes to impacting others, we are encouraged to start where others are, not with what we know.

Because people can't be argued or forced to become followers of Jesus, our desire is to walk alongside them with grace and mercy.

How might the following passages help us be sensitive as we seek to share the Gospel with people we are coming alongside?

2 Timothy 2:22-26

1 John 3:18-20

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

3. The Apostle Paul is an example of someone who made a positive impact on people. In Philippians 1:12-14 and Colossians 4:2-6, we see that even while in prison his desire was to talk with people about Jesus.

What do we learn about Paul's attitude regarding the Gospel from these two passages?

What do Paul's prayer requests in Colossians 4:2-6 suggest is important about his dependence on God?

Do you see any similarities in these passages and how Philip conversed with the Ethiopian man in Acts 8?

How might Paul's instructions and Philip's example influence the way we engage others and walk through doors God opens for us?

Is there someone in your life you are building an intentional relationship with in the hopes to share more about Jesus? If so, what is the next step?

If not, who is someone in your circle of influence that you could build an intentional relationship with?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?