Talking with Strangers about Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)
Change Your World – Part 9
Life Church St. Louis – June 1, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*1 Peter 3:14b-15 (NIV) "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."
But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an
answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you
have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

1. Listen to and follow God's _____

*Acts 8:26-28 (NIV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the
road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he
started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official
in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man
had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his
chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.*

*Acts 8:29-30a (NIV) The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."
Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the
prophet.*

2. Engage in conversation and share about _____

*Acts 8:30b-31 (NIV) "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.
"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip
to come up and sit with him.*

*Acts 8:32-34 (NIV) The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He
was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is
silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of
justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the
earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking
about, himself or someone else?"*

*Acts 8:35 (NIV) Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and
told him the good news about Jesus.*

3. _____ and keep talking about Jesus

*Acts 8:36-38 (NIV) As they traveled along the road, they came to some water
and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"
And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went
down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

*Acts 8:39-40 (NIV) When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord
suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on
his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about,
preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.*

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Intro.   Do you think it is easier to talk to friends or strangers about Jesus? Why?

What may be reasons some people may fear talking to strangers about Jesus?

What instructions does 1 Peter 3:14-15 give us to prepare us to talk to others about the Lord?

What importance is it that Philip, who did many remarkable things in evangelism, was not an apostle (Acts 8:4-8)?

1A.   How did God prepare Philip and the eunuch for their encounter (Acts 8:26-28)?

1B.   Why do you think the angel didn't tell Philip more about what was going to happen?

1C.   How can you prepare yourself to hear the Spirit's voice (Acts 8:29-30)?

1D.   What temptations must you be prepared for when the Holy Spirit tells you to do something unusual? What are the rewards of following the Spirit?

2A.   Why is opening a conversation with a stranger with a question often a good idea (Acts 8:30-31)?

2B.   How did God use the Bible in the encounter of Philip and the eunuch (Acts 8:32-34)?

2C.   Why was it important for Philip to quickly bring Jesus into the conversation (Acts 8:35)?

2D.   What are some ways that you could initiate a conversation with a stranger and turn it toward spiritual matters?

3A.   What does the eunuch's question about baptism indicate about his conversation with Philip (Acts 8:36-38)?

3B.   Why is water baptism an important step for every new believer as seen in the book of Acts?

3C.   In what ways do you think God could use you and Life Church to bring the Good News of Jesus to strangers (Acts 8:39-40)?