

What is God Already Doing?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Prepared by Josh Olds

Opening Prayer

God of wind and whisper,
flame and stillness,
You gather your people and breathe new life into us.

You are always going ahead of us—
at work in unexpected places,
calling us into moments that seem small
but ripple out in ways we cannot see.

We praise you for your love that reaches every corner,
for your Spirit who stirs in deserts and crowded streets alike,
for Jesus, who walks the road with us and shows us your heart.

As we gather in this space,
open our ears to your voice,
our hearts to your presence,
and our lives to your movement.

We offer you this time,
in gratitude, hope, and longing.
Amen.

Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian

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 the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 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. “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.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its 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?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 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.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Where might God already be at work in your street, your workplace, the places you frequent regularly?
2. How might you cultivate a posture of being ‘interruptable?’

3. Are there desert roads you're being nudged toward—even if they seem small, slow, or strange?