

## Faith Promise Discussion Questions 5.15.16

### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### Questions

#### **Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. Share a story of a time when the Holy Spirit gave you clear direction to do or say something.
2. What passage in the Old Testament would you use as a starting point to tell the story of Jesus?

### Background

The story of the early church in Jerusalem begins with Jesus's resurrection and Pentecost, but it doesn't take long for those loyal to Jesus to catch the attention of the religious elite. Once that happens the story takes a much darker turn. The first altercation that provides a hint of the things to come was the stoning of Stephen. After that the story of the early church shifts to a time of persecution and scattering throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. Luke puts the spotlight on Philip and follows him first to Samaria where the impact of his ministry draws John and Peter from Jerusalem and then he continues on to the road that leads south from Jerusalem to Gaza. During this trip is when Philip encounters an Ethiopian on official business for the Queen who is trying to understand the prophecies in Isaiah.

Read Acts 8:26-35 and Isaiah 53:1-9

#### **Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. What was Philip's response to the prompting he received from the angel of the Lord?
2. Answer the Ethiopian's question, "Tell me please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?".
3. Why do you think Philip started by asking if the Ethiopian understood what he was reading?

#### **Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. If you found yourself in Philip's shoes what essentials of the Jesus story would you include?
2. Do you think the angel of the Lord still gives directions like he did to Philip? Why?
3. How would you make sense of the description given in Isaiah 53 of the Suffering Servant to someone who does not know Jesus?

#### **Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. Who is the Holy Spirit prompting you to share the story of Jesus with?
2. What does it look like in 2015 to be willing to go where Jesus leads? Does this only mean going far away from home?
3. What are some practical ways to support those who the Holy Spirit does call to go far from home to take the story of Jesus into the world?

## Closing

Each of us are called to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world that we inhabit, which means all of us are missionaries. Some will be called to serve as vocational missionaries near and far, so spend some time praying for those you know who serve in this capacity. Pray they would have the financial, prayer and physical support they need to continue to bring the story of Jesus to people who do not know him. Pray also for one another that as the Holy Spirit puts people in our path we would see the opportunities to share Jesus's story with them.

Reminder: In order to avoid becoming isolated or insulated from the world we have to be open to all the stories of what is happening in the world. Then we need to seek out opportunities to be Jesus in the places we can reach or are called to participate in.