# The Leading of the Spirit 9. Inspiration to do the inexplicable Acts 8:26-40

# Being led by the Spirit

## On big occasions

## At the personal level

### Being led by the Spirit is not just about moral dilemmas and big decisions

### Sometimes it’s just trying to decide if it’s just you or if it’s a prompting of the Spirit

## When things turned out great for the kingdom the story is retold in hindsight and in the language of faith

### A kind of God perspective

# God guides His people

## Through others

## Through the inward witness of the Holy Spirit

## Through the word/the scriptures

### These do not give different messages

## God has great timing!

# God uses His people to help others come to faith

## By meeting

### At the end of the encounter the Ethiopian went on rejoicing in his new-found faith & Philip was fired up to do even more sharing of the good news

## By talking

### The conversation was led by the Ethiopian

## By helping

# God does NOT want Christians dependent on others

## God wants Christians inter-dependent

### Each doing their own jobs in their own place according to the faith that He gives them

## Sometimes you may be inspired to do the inexplicable

### Do it and see what happens…

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Tell your stories

## Have you felt the urge to do something kind/generous/in faith which turned out really well?

### How did it go? Where was God in it all?

## When has another Christian helped you in your decision-making and what was the outcome?

### What are your thoughts about the person who helped you?

# Stories of evangelism

## In evangelism courses the emphasis seems to be on getting the whole message across in one go and getting the person to make a decision at the end

### How does this story (Acts 8:26-40) differ from that method?

# Comparing this with the road to Emmaus

## There are some striking similarities between this story and the post resurrection appearance of Jesus in Lk 24:13ff)

### See if you can spot them.

#### They both ended in a sacramental act

### What message is Luke telling his readers by doing this?

# Joy – the usual result

## Compare Philip’s evangelistic activities in Acts 8:

### Who was spoken to? (Was this a first?)

### What was spoken about?

### How did they respond?

### How did people feel?

# Technicalities

## v.37 is not in the earliest manuscripts (a footnote in the NIV)

### Why do you think was added (if it was?)

### What does adding it do for the reader?

## Some manuscripts add ‘The Holy Spirit fell on the Eunuch’ at the end of v.38 (probably original!)

### How does this help here and in the context of the previous story?