

5. What some reasons you might feel intimidated to try to explain the bible or faith in Christ to someone who is not a Christ follower?

6. How can you cultivate a heart willing and available to respond obediently to the Spirit's leading?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

Missional Application

God calls us to be available and obedient to the Spirit's prompting, able and willing to show Christ in all the Scriptures.

Christ Connection

The Ethiopian eunuch was familiar with the Old Testament prophets but was unable to understand how their message was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to help the eunuch understand how Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, in accordance with the ancient prophecies.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

The Spirit Who Empowers (Part 4)

"Three Ways We Experience The Holy Spirit"

Acts 8:26-40

Chance encounters or divine appointments?

1. We experience the Holy Spirit when we **listen**.

- Philip is available and obedient to the Spirit's prompting.
- The Kingdom of God advances in surprising and counter-intuitive ways.

2. We experience the Holy Spirit when we **learn** to be disciples.

- Believing in Jesus is the key to understanding what the bible says.
- The call to obey is more than belief. To obey is to do this with your life and to help others do the same.

“Contrary to our gut reaction, feeling lost or confused is not a bad sign for a student (of the Word). It is actually a sign that our understanding is being challenged and that learning is about to take place. Embracing the dissonance of feeling lost, rather than avoiding it (giving up) or dulling it (looking for a short-cut), will actually place us in the best possible position to learn. We must extend ourselves permission to get lost and patience to find our way to understanding.” - Jen Wilkin

3. We experience the Holy Spirit when we **lead** others to respond in faith.
 - We are to follow him. He will lead us to others, and others to us; that we may help lead them to himself.
 - The goal of evangelism isn't just to share what we know with people; it's to invite them to join us in following Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit empowers you as you lead others to respond in faith.

Family Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways our family can be a part of telling others about God?
2. Talk about a story or event in your lives that points to God's bigger story.
3. As a family, discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in your lives. How does his role in our lives and the fact that he empowers us encourage our family?

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What "chance encounters" have you experienced in your life or heard about?
3. Who helped you to understand God, the bible, or hope in Christ in a way that led you to respond in faith to his invitation to be in relationship with him?
4. What are some ways you've been surprised by how God has led you, your church, or your friends to be on mission?