

LIVE ~~the~~ ^{THE} Cause PODCAST SERIES

make disciples who make disciples

Racing Chariots (or "How To Reach Someone For Christ")

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. 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. 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?" 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. 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. 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 (Acts 8:26-40).

How to reach someone for Christ

★ P _____ (stay connected to God)

○ Prayer builds your spiritual _____ with others.

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom....They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism (Acts 6:1-6).

• It connects us with God's _____

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:20-21).

- It gives us God's _____ .

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere (James 3:17).

- Prayer opens closed _____ when it comes to the gospel.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message (Colossians 4:2-3).

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city (Acts 8:4-8).

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★ P _____ (get connected to others)

- Pursue others _____ .

- Run beside them.

The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' Then Philip ran up to the chariot (Acts 8:29).

- Discover their struggle.

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?" (Acts 8:30-31).

- Get invited "into the chariot" if possible.

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him (Acts 8:31).

- Pursue others _____ .

- Start where they are at.

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture (Acts 8:35).

- Bring Jesus up.

And told him the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35).

★ P_____ (start connecting others to Christ)

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 8:36-37).

○ Don't be afraid to persuade!

- The Greek word "peitho" means "to make friends of, to win one's favor, gain one's good will, or to seek to win one."
- It is used _____ times in the New Testament in connection with evangelism.

Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks (Acts 18:4).

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains" (Acts 26:28-29).

○ Persuade them to go through the _____ of becoming a disciple:

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. 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 (Acts 8:36-39).

A_____ Christ

- The eunuch believed

B_____ to a church

- The eunuch was baptized

C_____ to the Cause

- The eunuch took the gospel to Africa

Are you willing to begin to pray for, pursue and persuade those in your circle?