



You Need Grit to Reach the Lost | Andrew Matrone | 6.12.22

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome back! This weekend we continued our new series of messages called “Grit”. Andrew Matrone reminded us of the powerful invitation to partner with God being “light in the darkness and the “salt of the earth.” As followers of Christ, we are commissioned to bring the hope of Jesus in our everyday ordinary lives and the most powerful thing is that God does not send us alone. We have a choice to make as we do so: are we going to remain in our comfort or are we going to leap into the unknown with gritty, determined faith, knowing that the God of the universe is always present with us and has gone before us? There is a gritty person of faith that you already are in Christ, and now we get to learn how to live like we know that it’s true.

Before we dive in, take some time to check in with your group and ask the following questions:

What is the most impactful or challenging thing you heard during Sunday’s message?

What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

How do you want to begin to apply it to your life this week?

GROW

Read Acts 8:5-8; 8: 26-40

Philip was an ordinary man, living an ordinary life serving in the local church, and chosen to care for the poor. He had a good reputation in the community, he was full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:3-5). Philip followed the Holy Spirit with obedience, sold out to God, believing in the good work that he was doing in and through him. When God invited him into something out of the ordinary, he followed with confidence in partnership with the Spirit bringing the good news of the Gospel to an unlikely place and people.

What was out of the ordinary of the invitation on Philip's life and this divine interaction?

Why was the Ethiopian considered an "unlikely" to hear and receive the good news of the gospel?

How was God preparing both Philip and this man for this divine moment?

This week, Andrew pointed out four specifics of this divine encounter. As the Holy Spirit led Philip to the Ethiopian man, he took personal responsibility, he made himself available, he looked for opportunity and he responded.

How did Philip take personal responsibility?

What did it look like for him to make himself available to God?

Where did he look for opportunity?

From beginning to the end of this invitation to partner with God, what did Philip's response to the Spirit look like in this story?

How did God use this story personally as you look deeper into your everyday life? Where do you need to take personal responsibility and make yourself available to the work of God?

M O V E

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (msg)

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”

Is there someone in your life that you can say brings the “God-flavors” and represent as a “light-bearer” in every space they enter? Share with your group.

What is keeping the preverbal “bucket” over your light making yourself unavailable?

God has commissioned us, as his people, representing him in this world to do just that. We are the joy bringers, the peace bearers who have the hope of Jesus. God has called us and he has designed us to bring the salt of the earth and the light to the world. He has given us the power and authority through the Holy Spirit promising to be with us in all, may I suggest that the deep work begins with our own belief.

Where are you not believing God? How is this redirecting your calling in your everyday life?

Where have you believed God and because of your obedience he has used you to bring light?

As Andrew shared how God has personally challenged him each day by saying “God, I am available, if you want to use me, use me” and he had some powerful testimonies to share. When we lean into God, listen to his voice, and make ourselves available to bringing the gospel to the world, no doubt God will use us. It requires a deep knowing of God, trusting in his goodness, and believing this for us to then “go” to share this news of hope. If we don’t believe it for our own lives why would others believe it for themselves?

Have you heard the Holy Spirit ask you to do something and you flat out disregarded what he asked you to do? Share with your group.

Who has God been telling you “go” and bring hope to them? If something is delaying your “going”, share with your group and pray over these divine interactions.

TAKE HOME: Lean into God. Ask him to use you this week and ask him to give you grit. Go with the supernatural confidence and courage knowing that God is before you and he is with you, preparing each divine moment. Share with someone in your group a divine moment that you experience this week.

P R A Y

Pray for each other. Invite each other into a space you may need healing or comfort. If you're in a co-ed group, it may be easier to break up into groups to more freely share.