



## 4. PHILIP: CROSS-CULTURAL MESSAGE



Who led Philip to the Ethiopian?

What was the message Philip preached to the Ethiopian?

How can we develop a relationship with different people?

### Review (5 min)

-From Babel Town to Pentecost  
With the movie clip from "Terminal" (directed by Steven Spielberg) we watched the importance of language issue as Victor (Tom Hanks) tried to translate not exactly following rules but rather life-saving way. With people's rebellion at the Babel Tower, God confused their language but at the Pentecost, a cross-cultural event, people from different cultures and language were able to understand what the disciples were talking about wonders of what God did with Jesus Christ. The language barrier was broken and communication is established.

### Sharing Time (10 min)

Share with your group the things you have learned from other cultures or religion. (Share Cross-cultural experiences)

### Framework for Group Discussion

1. Background
2. Cultural Groups in the story
3. Conflicts and Relationships
4. Cross-Cultural implication for us

### Discussion with Video Clip

#### Movie "School Tie" (1992, 30 min)

**Directed by Robert Mandel 14 min**  
School Ties is about 1950's small-town, working-class teen David Green (played by Brendan Fraser), who receives a football scholarship to St. Matthews, an exclusive prep school. His friendships become strained when another student reveals that David is Jewish. In this summary clip, David's identity is revealed and starting to lose his friendship. The movie comes to a climax when the classmates are forced to choose between Green and Dillon (Matt Damon) in a cheating scandal. This movie shows the religious inequality existed in America, and warns the presence of those victims in our society.

### Background: Religious prejudice

- > Why Jews were hated in 50's American society?
- > How much do you know about other religions?

### Cultural Groups

- > Identify cultural groups in the story.
- > Other than religion, can you identify other sub-cultures in the story?

### Conflicts and Relationships

- > Identify conflicts: between David and other students. (Chris, Dillon, Jack)
- > What can you say about the last comments of Dillon in the car?

### Cross-Cultural Approach

- > Where does this religious prejudice come from?
- > How can we overcome religious prejudice?

### Discussion with Bible Story

#### Philip's Cross-cultural Message (30 min)

##### Acts 8:26-40

**26** Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. **33** In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." **34** The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" **35** Then Philip began to speak,

and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" **37 38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (NRSV)

### Apostle Philip

- One of disciples (Mtt 10:3)
- Told to Nathanael "We have found the one" (Jn 1:43-48)
- Helping Creeks to meet Jesus (Jn 12:21)
- Asked to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father." (Jn 14:8)

### Deacon Philip

- One of seven Deacons (Acts 6:5)
- Preached the word to Samaria. (Acts 8:5)
- Preached the word to the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:27)
- Visited by Paul at Caesarea (Acts 21:8)
- Called "Philip the Evangelist" (Acts 21:8)



### Questions for Group Discussion

#### **Background:** Crossing Cultures

--> Read the Bible readings from Acts 8.

--> Why the eunuch was reading the book of Isaiah?

#### **Cultural Groups**

--> Identify different cultural groups and languages

--> What was the message that Philip said to the Ethiopian eunuch?

#### **Conflicts and Relationships**

--> Who guided Philip to the Ethiopian, and what does that mean to you?

--> What happened when the Ethiopian heard the good news?

#### **Cross-Cultural Approach**

--> What is the common message we share despite of cultural differences?

--> Where do you think the angel of the Lord leading you?

### Question Time (15 Min)

Next Study: Tue. 2nd May, 1pm or 7:30pm(Hybrid)

Study 5. Peter's Cross-cultural Vision(Acts 10)

With movie "Rabbit-Proof Fence"

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