



DATE(S)

July 9-10, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

All In – Week 6

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Take advantage of the God-moments!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Acts 8:26-39

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

App Madness

Each slide provides the name of an app that actually existed and two descriptions of it. Students will move to one side of the room or the other to show which description they believe to be true. Each correct guess gets a point. Most points win. Or have students stand and sit down if they get the question wrong. Last one standing wins!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is the coolest place you've been to (or seen) and when was the last time you were there?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"All In" – Week 6 (Philip & The Ethiopian)
July 9-10, 2022

Sometimes, there are situations in life when the perfect opportunity comes up. You are at the right place at the right time. Maybe you're outside in front of a mountain, ocean, or viewing a sunset and it's just incredible. It's like the perfect view! Maybe you're at a sporting event and something crazy happens...like a game-winning shot. You think to yourself, "What are the odds that I was actually here for something like this?"

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal story from your life that captures this opening paragraph...a really cool sight you saw or moment you were a part of. Describe what happened and focus on how memorable this moment was for you.)

As we've seen throughout this ALL IN series, there are a ton of cool events and people in the Bible. The one we are going to focus on today is one of those perfect "right time, right place" situations. It was one of those God-moments...like there is no way it was a coincidence. In the New Testament, the author of the book of Acts, Luke, gives us one of those events in Acts 8:26-39. It involves a man named Philip, one of the earliest followers of Jesus, and his encounter with an African man while he was traveling. Let's jump right into it and see what happens!

"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 man, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "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 **(Teacher's Note: Say "Let me pause here..." and then explain to the students that Isaiah is a book in the Old Testament that was written hundreds of years before this took place.)**

THE MESSAGE

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. This is the passage of Scripture the man was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its 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 man 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 man said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the man 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 man did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing."

That was an amazing story! Talk about a crazy God-moment that Philip had.

Our **THP (Take Home Point)** is about that exact thing. **Take advantage of the God-moments!**

Now, you might be asking, "What is a God-moment?" I believe it's when God steps right into a situation, helps us, and you just KNOW it's Him. Think about this...Philip is just walking along the road and it just so happens that this African man is traveling at the same time. It JUST SO HAPPENS that the man is reading some parts of the Old Testament that talks about Jesus – hundreds of years before it happened! And THEN, it JUST SO HAPPENS that Philip hears the man reading it and feels like God tells him to go talk to him. AND THEN...the man asks Philip, "Can you explain this to me? Who is the prophet, Isaiah, talking about?"

THE MESSAGE

I mean, that's the equivalent of someone at your school or in your neighborhood coming up to you and asking, "Can you please explain who Jesus Christ is and why I should believe in him?" Now, some of us might be scared to answer that question because we might feel we don't have the answers...but just the fact that they would ask is a big deal. You would be silly not to take advantage of a moment like that, right?

I believe God-moments happen in our lives and oftentimes, we just completely miss them; even the obvious ones. We may avoid sharing our faith with someone because we don't know what to say, we're too busy, or we think to ourselves, "Oh, someone else can help them." Yet, these moments happen to us, too, and not just to other people. The real question is this: will we take advantage of the God-moments? Will we take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to share our faith or make a difference in somebody else's life?

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal God-moment from your life. Talk about how it impacted you. It could be an example of how you took advantage of it...or how you didn't and later regretted it.)

I believe God wants to use us. If we are going to be ALL IN with God (like we've been talking about this whole series), then we need to take advantage of these opportunities God gives us. This African man's life was completely changed! In fact, there are church historians – people who study the Bible and the history of Christianity – who believe this man may have been the first Christian convert who didn't have any Jewish background. In other words, he was the first person to believe in Jesus with no previous background of knowing about him! As we read at the end of that passage, Philip baptizes him right on the spot and then something really crazy happens: the Holy Spirit takes Philip away...like disappears completely! How cool is that?! I think we can definitely say this is a moment where God was directly involved.

Philip was willing to take advantage of his God-moment. What about you? Do you think those opportunities happen to you? Do you think you might be missing them? We need to be praying to God and asking Him, "God, help me to make a difference in someone's life. Help me to share your message with others." These opportunities may not happen ALL the time; they may only happen every once in a while. However, when they DO happen, we need to be ready! We can't make excuses; we need to go for it! God will help us; He will give us the words to say.

Let's live out our **THP (Take Home Point)** and **Take advantage of the God-moments** in our life! Let me pray for us before we move into our group discussions.



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

Who can give us a short recap of the encounter between Philip and this Ethiopian man?

Do you normally look for God-moments around you or do you typically think, "Wow, that is a crazy coincidence!"? Why do you think that?

How can you prepare yourself for a God-moment so that when it happens you can be ready?

Have you personally experienced a "God-moment" or witnessed someone who did? What happened?

How will the THP (Take Home Point) help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

After your group is finished with your discussion, close in prayer together!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

