

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ*

24-28 February 2003

## ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### #7 – DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

#### INTRODUCTION:

- Do you think that God is directly involved in people's lives or is He more distant? Explain.

#### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

*Note: This event took place shortly after Stephen was stoned for speaking out about Christ. (Acts 7) A great persecution broke out against the church that scattered the believers. (Acts 8:1) A certain group of Hellenist Jews became Gospel bearers. These Hellenist or Grecian Jews had absorbed Greek values and ways of living from their surrounding community. A comparison today might be a Jewish cultural community who has become "Americanized" or "Westernized." Although the Hellenists made up the fringe of Jewish society, they were natural agents in the Spirit's plan to take the gospel to new groups of people. One of these Hellenistic Jews was Phillip. (Acts 6: 5,6) Notice that the Eunuch was very religious but not a believer. He may have been prevented from worshipping. (Deut 23:1).*

#### Read Acts 8:26-40

- Why was the Ethiopian visiting Jerusalem? (Acts 2:1-11), Ps 68:31
- How did Phillip know where to go? How did Phillip know what to do?
- How does the Isaiah passage relate to Jesus? (Isaiah 53:7,8)
- Luke has gone to great detail explaining the conversion of just one person and we must ask why? The Eunuch was in the same area where thousands received Christ, but he was not converted. Could someone in your group or church be like him?
- What is the value of one-on-one ministry?
- What is the relationship between divine preparation and human initiative in this story?
- Are you concerned that God might use you like Phillip? Why?
- When God sets up opportunities for you to witness, how does that *free* you from the fears of evangelism?

#### APPLICATION:

- What do you have to do to be prepared to answer someone's questions about God?
- Write down the name of someone God is directing you to. Pray for boldness and the opportunity to speak to that person.

*... do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

*Matt 9: 19b-20*

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

*1 Pet 3:15*

*You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.*

*Acts 22:15*