

## Welcome To The Ministry!

### The Rip That Changed Everything:

Matthew 27:50-51 Mark 15:37-38 Luke 23:44-46 John 19:30  
Hebrews 5:1 2 Chronicles 15:3 1 Timothy 2:5 1 Peter 2:9 & Revelation 5:8-10

### Reclaiming Our Spiritual Rights, Responsibilities & Privileges:

- (1) We have **COMPLETE** and **FULL** access to God.  
1 Timothy 2:5 Hebrews 4:14-16 1 John 1:9 & James 5:16
- (2) We can hear **DIRECTLY** from God.  
John 16:7-11 1 John 2:27 Acts 17:11
- (3) Anything a priest or pastor **CAN** do - we **CAN** do.
- (4) Anything a priest or pastor **SHOULD** do - we **SHOULD** do.  
1 Peter 2:9-12

### Why Reclaiming Our Identity Is So Important:

- (1) It's the only way the **SALT** gets out of the **SALT SHAKER**.  
Matthew 5:13 Jeremiah 29:7
- (2) It's the only way we can fulfill our **LIFE PURPOSE**.  
2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Colossians 3:17 Ephesians 4:11-13

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 29, 2017

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. This weekend we were reminded we have complete and full access to God, but despite this fact, we often don't fully utilize the access we have. Can you think of any reasons why someone may not fully utilize their access to God?

2. What was your response when Larry said you can do anything a pastor can do and you should do anything a pastor should do?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry reminded us that when we reclaim our identity, "salt gets out of the salt shaker." As we read about salt in the Bible, it's often paired with light. Since these concepts can be unclear, how do the following verses help us understand what Jesus means when he says "you are" salt and light?

**Matthew 5:13-16** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Salt and Light*

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Ephesians 5:8-14** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."

**Colossians 4:5-6** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

How might your week look different if you were more intentional about being salt and light to those around you?

2. In the book of Acts we read about a man named Philip who fits God's mold of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. The Bible makes no mention of Philip having any sort of prior skill or training,

yet he made quite an impact in ministry. The following passages look at three examples of Philip in action. As you read through the verses below, keep in mind that God can use us to impact others in the same way he used Philip.

Acts 6:1-7 gives us our first look at Philip's ministry and why he was selected as part of the "choosing of the seven." How do the two qualifications given compare with what you may have thought was needed for ministry before hearing the sermon?

**Acts 6:1-7** *New International Version (NIV)*

#### *The Choosing of the Seven*

**6** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. 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. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

In Acts 8:1-13, Philip continues his ministry in Samaria, a place despised by most Jews and often avoided. What stands out to you about how Philip ministered to people that most would avoid?

**Acts 8:1-13** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of their killing him.

#### *The Church Persecuted and Scattered*

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

#### *Philip in Samaria*

<sup>4</sup> Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. <sup>6</sup> When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. <sup>7</sup> For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

#### *Simon the Sorcerer*

<sup>9</sup> Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." <sup>11</sup> They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Can you think of any person or groups of people you feel somewhat intimidated to serve, talk to or invite to church?

How does Philip show us what it looks like to be a minister in Acts 8:26-40?

**Acts 8:26-40** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Philip and the Ethiopian*

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, 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, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**3.** It’s okay to acknowledge that many of us are intimidated by the thought of baptizing someone or leading others in communion. Because of this, it can be helpful to remember there are many different areas of ministry (Ephesians 4:11) and God has uniquely made each of us for specific ones (Ephesians 2:10). Ministry can be calling someone to check in, doing a service project, hosting Growth Group or offering to bring a sick person dinner. As you think about ministry happening around you, can you think of any people you see consistently being “ministers” to others?

If all of us were asked to serve our Growth Group in some form of ministry, can you think of a couple things you would be most comfortable doing?

**TAKING IT HOME**

This weekend we heard the important reminder that we’re all in ministry. Are there new areas of ministry you’d like to get involved in or any existing ones you’d like to be more intentional about in the coming week?

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Praise/Prayer Requests:

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**THE DAILY DOSE** – Use your cell phone to text the keyword “daily” to 51400 to receive a daily text message with a link to a quick video devotional during the “Identity Theft” sermon series. Standard text rates apply. Questions? Email [info@northcoastchurch.com](mailto:info@northcoastchurch.com)

**BREAKFAST N’**

**Project:** Make stay and chat after

**Day:** Saturday

**Time:** Arrive by

**Sign up at** <http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/interfaith-community-services-3/>



**CHAT – Interfaith in Carlsbad - New!**

and serve a nourishing breakfast for 20 men that come from La Posada Men’s Shelter. Volunteers are encouraged to serving breakfast.

mornings at Carlsbad Interfaith

6:30am

**GREEN OAK RANCH GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, 8am-12pm, we could use about 30 to 60+ people to help on this project. Duties may include: gardening, planting, weeding, raking paths, hauling away debris, painting and basic landscaping. Our Team Leader is John Westbrook.

- **Date/Time:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 8am-12pm
- **Meet:** 1237 Green Oak Road in Vista, CA 92081
- **Bring:** Gloves, hats, closed-toe shoes, sun block & water
- **Child Friendly:** Yes, but we ask for parental supervision at all times
- **Tools to Bring:** Rakes, shovels, hand trowels, hand clippers of any size, brooms, dust pans & wheelbarrows
- **Sign up at** <http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/green-oak-ranch/>