



**MAIN POINT:** Share your life because your life can change others' lives.

**MAIN SCRIPTURES:** John 13:1-5 & Acts 8:26-40

**GOSPEL MOMENT:** We can share our lives and impact others because Jesus shared His life and impacted our lives first.

## THE WHAT?

### **ME: DISCUSSION: "Tell a story about someone who has impacted your life."**

- Turn to the person next to you and tell them about someone who has had a positive impact on your life, like a teacher, a coach, a pastor, a parent, or a friend.
- Once you've heard your neighbor's story, say, "Thanks for sharing." Okay, go!
- *Wrap it up by asking everyone to say together, "Thanks for sharing!" Then share your own story.*

### **WE: WE NEED EACH OTHER**

- We need each other. That's no surprise, is it? We feel it all the time. We get lonely. We want friends. We look for approval from others. We need people to help us through life.
- Right near the beginning of the Bible, when God made the first humans, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone."
- We need other people, but do you know what that means? It means other people need us, too.
- Let's take a look at some of my favorite movie characters who demonstrate this well . . .

### **IMAGES: Famous Movie Characters**

- *Show an image for some famous movie characters you and your students will recognize. Look for characters who needed each other and both gave and received help from each other, like . . .*
  - REY, FINN, AND POE. Rey, Finn, and Poe help each other escape from the First Order, help Rey discover her true identity, and set out to save the galaxy. But none of them could have done it alone.
  - FRODO, SAM, AND GANDALF: Gandalf helped Frodo. Frodo and Sam helped each other. Together, they destroyed the ring. They needed each other and everyone played a role.

**Transition:** Just like these characters helped each other, people in the Bible helped each other out too.



## SO WHAT?

### **GOD: MAIN SCRIPTURE #1: John 13:1-5**

- In a minute, we're going to read a story about what can happen when one person (a guy named Philip) chooses to share his life with someone who needs a little help. But before we get there, we need to talk about Jesus, who inspired Philip to live with so much passion and generosity.
- Some of you might know the story of how Jesus died. We're not going to tell that story today, but I do want to talk about what happened the night before Jesus died. That night, Jesus was having dinner with his best friends. Jesus knew that He was going to die the very next day. Through His death, He knew He would be literally sharing His life with others — dying so they could live.
- But, first, He wanted to share one last meal with them and teach them one more lesson. So at the end of the meal, Jesus showed His friends what it looked like to share your life with others.
- *Read John 13:1-5.*
- By washing His friends' feet, Jesus was saying, "This is how you share your life with others. You help them, serve them, and make sacrifices for them. Now do for others what I've done for you."

### **JESUS' EARLY FOLLOWERS SHARED THEIR LIVES WITH EACH OTHER**

- Jesus' definition of "sharing your life" with someone wasn't just about getting pizza, or playing video games, or going to the mall together. According to Jesus, sharing your life with someone is about sacrificing your plans, needs, status, and desires to help and serve them.
- That attitude characterized the early church. When Jesus left earth, His earliest followers continued to love, and serve, and share their lives with each other in profound ways.
- They understood what we need to understand. They knew the importance of **sharing their lives with each other because their lives could change others' lives.**

**GOSPEL MOMENT:** We can share our lives and impact others because Jesus shared His life and impacted ours first. In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." For us to share our lives and truly make a difference in this world and other's lives, we first need to have our lives changed and transformed by accepting Jesus' sacrifice for us and acknowledging Him as our God.

### **SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-31**

- Philip was one of those early followers of Jesus. He demonstrated what it means to share your life with someone else, even when it's inconvenient or uncomfortable.



- *Read Acts 8:26-31. And maybe just explain that a “eunuch” is someone who was . . . uh, really devoted to serving the queen.*

### ACTIVITY: Textbook Knowledge

- If you’ve been around church for a while, maybe it seems strange that this man needed Philip to explain what the book of Isaiah meant. To help us put ourselves in his shoes, let’s try something.
- *Pass out a handful of books at different difficulty levels, like a Shakespeare play, a chemistry textbook, a novel in another language, and a very simple children’s book. Ask your students to read a short passage from each book at random, starting with the easiest to understand.*
- When something is new to you, you need help understanding it. Sometimes you may even need more than one person to help you understand it.

### SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:31-40

- *Read Acts 8:26-31. Philip didn’t just listen to what this man was asking for. He didn’t just offer up happy thoughts or a quick prayer on his behalf. Philip did something about it.*
- I wonder how often we miss a chance to help someone because we’re busy focusing on ourselves.
- Philip **shared his life because he knew his life could change someone else’s life.**

**Transition:** We can be just like Philip. We have something in our lives we can share to change others’ lives.

## NOW WHAT?

### YOU: YOU CAN SHARE YOUR LIFE

- Philip understood what some of us here are still learning.
- People help people.
- Sometimes you’ll be the person in need of some help. Other times, you’ll be the person able to lend a hand and give help when it’s needed.
- Like we saw in Philip’s story, you never know when those moments will happen. That’s why it’s so important to share your life with other people. Share your life deeply, intentionally, and consistently. Because you need people. And people need you.
- **So share your life because your life can change others’ lives.**

### RESPONSE

- We’ve talked about a lot today. So as we close, I want to give you just a few action steps, if you need them.
- If you identified with the man in today’s story and you need help understanding the Jesus story, we would love to talk with you. If that’s you, talk to your small group leader, talk to me, or talk to a friend or family member that you trust. We’d love to help you make sense of the good news that Jesus came to share His life with us so we could live.
- Or if you’re feeling alone and you need someone to share your life with, talk to one of the adults here today. We’d love to talk with you and help you get plugged into a community.



- Or if you already know Jesus, you're already plugged into a community, but you need some help figuring out what today's conversation means for you, hang in there. In your small group conversations, you're going to dive into some deeper conversations about how to share your life with others.
- So this week, remember, you weren't made to do this alone. Now go share your life with others.

**WE:**

- We are in this together – let's encourage each other to grow our relationship with Jesus and share our lives with others – together!

**PRAY:** God, please be with us today. Help us to come to know you as our Savior, have our lives transform, and share our lives with others to make a difference. We pray all this in your name for your glory. Amen.