

One Mission: Let's Relive an Exciting Missionary Moment

In *Missionary Sunday School* (p. 5), David Francis shares: “My hope is that this book will be sufficient to motivate your class or group to want to start thinking like missionaries and to provide some ideas for beginning that exciting journey.”

Read the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. Philip was engaging in missionary activity. Circle words or phrases that denote missionary activity as you read:

²⁶An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to desert Gaza." ²⁷So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem ²⁸and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot." ³⁰When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?" ³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so He does not open His mouth. ³³In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who will describe His generation? For His life is taken from the earth. ³⁴The eunuch replied to Philip, "I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or another person?" ³⁵So Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning from that Scripture. ³⁶As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look, there's water! What would keep me from being baptized?" [³⁷And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]³⁸Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer. But he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip appeared in Azotus, and he was traveling and evangelizing all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

In Acts 8:26-40 Phillip was not only thinking like a missionary but acting like one as well! God set up this amazing opportunity and Philip joined Him where He was working.

1. What is your perception of the Ethiopian eunuch in this story? (Circle your response.)
Searching Spiritually Hungry Providentially Fortunate Forceful
2. What is your perception of Philip in this story? (Circle your response.)
Available Courageous On a Mission Versed in Scriptures
3. How do Philip's actions motivate you to think more like a Sunday School missionary?
4. How does this encounter from Scripture enable you to see adult Sunday School as more of a “movement” rather than a program?

His Story From Sunday School History: A Missionary Movement

“Sunday School was a missionary movement that cut across—and sometimes against—the grain of traditional church structures. In fact, its primary mission was to reach, teach, and minister to persons who were outside the church and far from God. In a missionary Sunday School, that’s still the mission” (p. 9, *Missionary Sunday School*).

Record insights and principles as each group reports its findings:

- (1) Robert Raikes (pp. 9-10)
- (2) Sunday School in Urban America—Bishop William White (p. 10)
- (3) From Social Gospel to...Sunday School Missionaries (pp. 11-12)
- (4) Fast Forward to Today (pp. 12-13)
- (5) Stephen Paxson: Sunday School Missionary (pp. 13-15)
- (6) Books and Libraries...Schools to Churches (pp. 15-17)
- (7) Sunday School Man (p. 17)
 - If a book were written about your history of leading/teaching an adult Sunday School group, what would be the findings and recordings in the book?
 - What impact has your adult group had in the Sunday School movement?
 - What has been your place in the history of the Sunday School movement up to now?
 - What can you do now to shape a more effective Sunday School group?

His Story: From Members to Missionaries!

“In many Sunday School classes, Bible study is an end unto itself. In a missionary Sunday School class, the purpose of Bible study is to equip members to be, well, missionaries!” (pp. 22-23)

Place an *X* where you would currently fall on this teaching chart:

I seek to teach for:

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Understanding</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Training Missionaries</i>
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What steps do you need to take to move the X further to the right?

- Read the statement at the top of the handout again and reflect on your adult Bible study group.

Does Bible study become an end in itself or is it equipping your group members to be missionaries?

How or why?

Rate your adult class with an X on these elements using the scale below:

Open					Closed
Ongoing					Short term
Systematic Plan					Whatever

What steps do you need to take to improve (move closer to the left) the ratings you just now gave your adult Sunday School group?

Every Person: His Story, My Story, Our Group's Story

“When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. For I didn't think it was a good idea to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power.” 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

“No one's story is complete until it has intersected with His Story which happens best in a community being enriched by the stories of others.” (p. 22)

Stories Can Inspire Us & Teach Us Valuable Lessons!

Pair with another adult leader and share about these areas of your story. Communicate how God is working in your life and the life of your adult Bible study group to help you become more “missionary.”

- How I'm taking risks for God and engaging in His mission
 - How our Bible study group is taking risks for God and engaging in His mission
- Challenges I'm facing to inspire our Bible study group to become missionaries to other groups in the church and community
- Challenges our Bible study group members face in becoming missionaries to other groups in the church and community
- An Unreached People Group (UPG) in our church, community, or world that God is speaking to me and/or the group about partnering with (learning about, praying for, establishing a class for, etc.)

An Unreached People Group (UPG) in **your church** could be:
church members not in Sunday School, singles (collegiate, never married, divorced, single parents), single on Sundays, blended families, empty nesters, special needs (children or adults), language groups, homebound, affinity group (hunting, fishing, jogging, quilting, scrapbooking)

An Unreached People Group (UPG) in **your community** could be found in:
apartment buildings; housing projects; elementary, middle, or high schools; college campuses; trailer parks; YMCAs; community centers; recreation teams; independent living, retirement, assisted living, or nursing homes; businesses

An Unreached People Group (UPG) in **your world** could be:
One of 6,426 unreached people groups in the world to be adopted by your group.
To learn about an unreached people group, go to www.imb.org/gettingthere.