

Currently our Community Groups are on a break during the holidays. It isn't a time away from growth, though, and so we will continue to prepare these Growth Guides as a tool that you can use individually, as a family, or as a group. Community Groups will resume again during the week of January 6, 2013.

Consider...

Use the summary and questions to consider this week's message and its implications in your life:

Message Summary

Pastor Paul wrapped up the year by closing out chapter eight in the book of Acts. He pointed out 2 things that happened in the early church that he believes will take place in our church in the year 2013, and then shared one truth that can give each of us the courage and boldness we need to face them:

1. **They faced divine showdowns:** It's easy to forget that we have an enemy, mainly because we can't see him, but the one way to call him out is by knowing and speaking the word of God. When Philip did that in Samaria, the Bible says evil spirits came out with shrieks and also that he had a divine showdown with a sorcerer named Simon. Simon's power was no match for the power of the Word. We must make the Word a top priority in 2013 in order to be prepared for the showdown coming our way.
2. **They were placed in divine situations:** After the showdown, Philip was sent by an angel to a specific place to meet a specific man who needed specific instruction in the Word of God about the Son of God. And Philip went, immediately, because he was in a position of freedom that allowed him to say "yes" to anything God asked. We need to be, too, and the most obvious place to free ourselves is from the crushing burden of financial debt so that we can say "yes" to the divine situations God wants us to in 2013.
3. **The truth that Philip knew (and we need to know, too):** Philip (and each of us) had the courage and confidence to face showdowns and be placed in situations because he knew one powerful truth: as followers of Jesus, **we can never be outnumbered.**

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's service did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not much and 10 being a lot), how would you rate the following:
 - The importance of God's Word
 - Your hunger for God's Word
 - Time spent reading God's Word
 - Your understanding of God's Word
 - Your application of God's Word
- Take some time to talk through the consistencies and inconsistencies of some of your answers. In other words, if you said 10 for the importance of God's Word but 3 on time spent reading it, what insight do you gain from those answers?
- Do you feel prepared to face showdowns or be placed in situations for Jesus and His Kingdom?
- Read Romans 1:16 and Romans 10:17. How does God's Word prepare us for both?
- Do you feel that your life is free enough from distractions and cares that you could say yes to an unusual divine situation? Why or why not?
- How do you respond to this week's Big Idea that **we can never be outnumbered?**