



Worship Resources -- The Evangelism Strategy The Call to Teach Discipleship

Objective III: Teach Discipleship

... train disciples by equipping people of all ages to be faith-filled witnesses to God as revealed in Jesus Christ and committed disciples in service to

others, working for justice and peace in all the earth.

(From the ELCA Evangelism Strategy)

The Reading

Acts 8:29-31; 35

Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him (the Ethiopian eunuch) reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with the scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. *(NRSV)*

Devotional Thought -- "Show and Tell"

Hymn #492 -- "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

(Lutheran Book of Worship)

Litany

(Based on the hymn "O Master Let Me Walk With You")

- L: *(Leader)* O Master, let me walk with you.
P: *(People)* Show us how to lead others to you.
L: Help us the slow of heart to move.
P: Tell us how to tell others of your forgiving love.

- L: Teach us the wayward feet to stay,
P: Show us how to guide others to you.
L: Teach us your patience; grant us opportunities to share faith sweet and strong,
P: Tell us again of your grace and mercy, that we might be faithful witnesses.
L: O God, when we hear, "I don't understand. Can you guide me?"
P: Make us bold witnesses to show and tell the Good News about Jesus. Amen

Hymn #168 -- "Lead Me, Guide Me"

(This Far By Faith)

Devotional Thought – “Show and Tell”

(To be read by leader)

The request is a common one. A child asks a parent. A player asks a coach. An intern asks a supervisor. An apprentice asks a master artist. A disciple asks a teacher. “I don’t understand. Can you show me?”

How do we “teach discipleship”? The answer just might be found in a simple elementary school activity – “show and tell.” Or perhaps better spoken, “Live and tell.”

For Philip on the dusty road to Gaza, it was “show and tell” time. Propelled by the Spirit, he was in the opportune place at the opportune time with the opportune question. “Do you understand?” “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

An ordinary question, asked of an ordinary disciple on an ordinary road. But Philip realized the extraordinary opportunity before him to teach discipleship. He seized the moment; and beginning with where the eunuch was, he “showed and told” the good news about Jesus.

Toward what opportunities to “show and tell” is God propelling us – as individuals, as congregations, as synods? Fertile moments to teach discipleship can happen just about anytime.

Don’t be surprised if someday, somewhere, when you least expect it, someone comes up to you and says, “I don’t understand. Can you show me?”

God grant us the courage to ask, “Do you understand?”, the insight to begin where others are, the inspiration to guide them to new understandings, and courage to “show and tell” the good news about Jesus.