

³³*In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.*

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

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

³⁶*As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?”*

³⁸*And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

³⁹*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.* ⁴⁰*Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.*

- How do you know this man was serious about seeking God?
- How do you think God assists people in finding Him today?
- What did the man do about his discovery?

Read Acts 17:26-27

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. ²⁷*God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

- What do you understand from this passage about why God made you and what He hopes you will do about it?
- Are you interested in continuing to seek God through studying the Bible?

All Scripture quotations unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®** Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2010 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Study developed by David Owens, contact at davidbruceowens@hotmail.com.

Seeking God

Searching for truth and meaning in the Bible

Study #1: Seeking God

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Discuss verse 11:

- What can you conclude, from these verses, about what God wants for your future?
- Is it hard for you to believe that God wants to bless you and that He has great plans for you? Why or why not?
- How is this statement of Jesus like verse 11? “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Discuss verse 12:

- How does it affect you to know that God will listen to you when you pray to Him?

Discuss verse 13:

- How does it affect you to know that if you seek God, He will allow you to find Him?
- How is this statement of Jesus similar to verses 12 and 13? *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).*
- Did you notice the promises mentioned in Jeremiah 29 had a condition? What do you think it means to seek God with all your heart?

- How is seeking God with all your heart similar to what people do and think when they are committed to a sport, career or relationship?

Read Matthew 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

- How much did the treasure cost the man in these stories?
- What do you think their friends and family might have thought about the person’s behavior?
- Why would anyone do what he did?
- How do those stories about earthy treasure illustrate the idea of seeking God?

Read Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

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

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

³²The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.