

2006-07 BSP#4 Group Time Discussion

(A) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

1. Who was Philip? (For answer, read either Chinese bible footnote 1 for Acts 8 or ICSB 8:5 footnote.) What does his successful ministry in Samaria display about the gospel? (For answer, read either Chinese bible footnotes 2 for Acts 8 or John 4:35-38.)
2. Read the passage below. Who were the “God-fearers” in Acts 10:2? Why were they not considered Jewish converts in the strict sense?

Cornelius was among a class of devout Gentiles who admired Judaism. Known from antiquity as “God-fearers”, they worshiped Yahweh, attended synagogue services, and followed many of the moral and religious precepts of the Torah. Because they stopped short of receiving circumcision, they were not considered Jewish converts in the full and strict sense. (ICSB 10:2 footnote)

(B) Session Review (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Review today’s session outline for the Navigator’s Time, particularly the summary (item E). What is the most important point you learned from today’s session? Why? Are there any issues discussed in today’s Navigator’s Time that you don’t understand? Discuss them with your group members and see if they can help you. If satisfactory answers are not readily available, put the issues or questions on paper. Either bring them up during Q&A or submit them to the navigator for post-session response.

(C) Optional Application Question (Suggestion: Do this question only if your group chooses not to do (B) above.)

What is meant by “walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 9:31)? How does the Catholic community to which you belong (for example, your parish or prayer group) experience that fear or this comfort? How do you experience it?