



Week Four: It Starts Now – Study Guide

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Jesus did an incredible work that allows us to have peace with one another. It's a symbol to the outside world that we love Jesus when we display that peace. However, that peace pales in comparison to the incredible work that Jesus accomplished to give us peace with God.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever sensed that God is asking you to do something so unusual that you're not even sure it makes sense? What was it?

Into the Bible

- 2) Philip was coming off of the exciting and new experience of seeing Samaritans become Jesus followers when God told him to get on the road to Gaza. Read **Acts 8:26-30** to see how quickly he obeyed. How much information did he have to go on? How did he engage the Ethiopian?

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- 3) Philip got a great response from the Ethiopian. Read **Acts 8:31-40** to see the rest of the conversation. What kind of questions did the Ethiopian ask? How did he respond to Philip's explanation?

- 4) Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection allow us to have the ultimate peace, peace with God. Paul explained how this works in **Ephesians 2:11-22**. What were gentiles (most of us) before Jesus? What are the two unions that we can have because of Jesus? What does that make us now?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) If you're a Jesus follower, who is God calling you to come alongside and share the gospel with?

- 6) If you're not a Jesus follower, but you're kicking the tires of Christianity, what kind of questions are you hoping to have answered?

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Prayer Focus

We're celebrating with the people who made a decision this past week to make Jesus the leader of their life, and with those who took the next step and were baptized! Give praise this week for life change!

We are also celebrating the opening of the Statesville Campus' new building this past Sunday as they marked five years of introducing people to Jesus in the Statesville area.

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) The book of Acts was written by Luke, the same man who wrote the gospel account by the same name. Acts serves as a sequel to the book of Luke. Luke (the author) had a particular habit of showing how the Old Testament points to the New Testament, and **Acts 8:26-40** is one of the clearest examples. The Ethiopian was reading out of the book of Isaiah. When he asked Philip what it meant, Luke said "then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus." Isaiah even wrote a prophecy of good news for eunuchs in Isaiah 56.

Luke also records Jesus teaching some of His disciples how much the Old Testament points to His life in **Luke 24**. There are many more examples, but those are two of the biggest. How connected (or disconnected) do the Old and New Testaments seem to you? Why? How equipped are you to share the gospel using the Old Testament?

Read: **Isaiah 53:7-8, 56:3-5; Luke 24:13-27; Acts 8:26-40**