

The word "Stirred" is written in a white, cursive script font, centered over a large, abstract brushstroke of reddish-brown paint. The background is a solid, muted brown color.

Stirred

Stirred: New Life on the Desert Road

May 8th & 9th

Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture: Acts 8

Series Overview

“The Holy Spirit is not static. The Spirit is working in us and through us on a daily basis. How? Stirring us at the very core of our being. Sometimes the stirring is a small nudge or a gentle prompting, but even the still small voice of the Spirit can awaken and animate a powerful zeal within us. It always begins with a stirring. We are stirred, not shaken!”

Series Discussion Questions

What is the Holy Spirit stirring in you?

Message Overview

Big moves of God often begin with small steps of obedience. But *small* doesn't necessarily mean *easy*. If we tune our ears to the voice of the Holy Spirit and train our wills to move in obedience, our lives will take turns towards adventure. Sometimes, that adventure may take us along a desert road, but if we partner with Him, we get to be a part of new life springing forth.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

Read Acts 8:26 Revival was breaking out in Samaria during the time that God called Philip to take this new journey. The route that God called Philip to was one that logically did not make sense. It was a desert road, and God asked him to leave an exciting revival. **Discuss a time when God called you to do something that did not make sense. Is God calling you to something that does not make sense right now?**

In Acts 8:29 The Holy Spirit led Philip to an Ethiopian Eunuch, who was reading a passage from Isaiah. Philip led with curiosity and asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian desiring an answer invited Philip to sit with him and have a conversation. **Who is God calling you to sit with in this season?**

Pastor Heather shared with us three observations that Philip made, and executed on his journey as a follower of Christ.

- Proximity - Get close enough to listen.
- Curiosity - Ask genuine questions, Do not assume.
- Presence - Be willing to embrace a moment of uncomfortability.

How can you practice these three observations in your life this week?

Read Isaiah 56:3-5. It is amazing how 800 years before Philip had an encounter with the Ethiopian that the Holy Spirit moved on Isaiah to write this down. Do you believe that God is orchestrating every move in your life? **How can you take a step of faith and trust God and the process?**

Read Acts 8:36-40. Because of Philip's obedience to the Spirit, the Ethiopian made a decision to follow Jesus! Pastor Heather stated: "*Big moves of the Holy Spirit often begin with small steps of obedience.*" **What small step is God calling you to take?**

Practical Application

- This week, I would challenge you to take a walk and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Dwell in His presence and listen for His still small voice. If the Holy Spirit prompts you to do something, take a step.....You never know who you might run into.
- Throughout this series, we are being reminded that the Spirit is working in us and through us on a daily basis. NCC Daily's audio podcast will return on Monday, May 3 as we learn *lectio divina*, or divine reading, of Scripture. Each day we'll be guided through the practice of listening, reflecting, responding, and resting in the Word of God — allowing space for the still, small voice of the Spirit to stir us in unique and personal ways. **Subscribe [here!](#)**
- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. We'll come together as a community to start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. **Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom.**