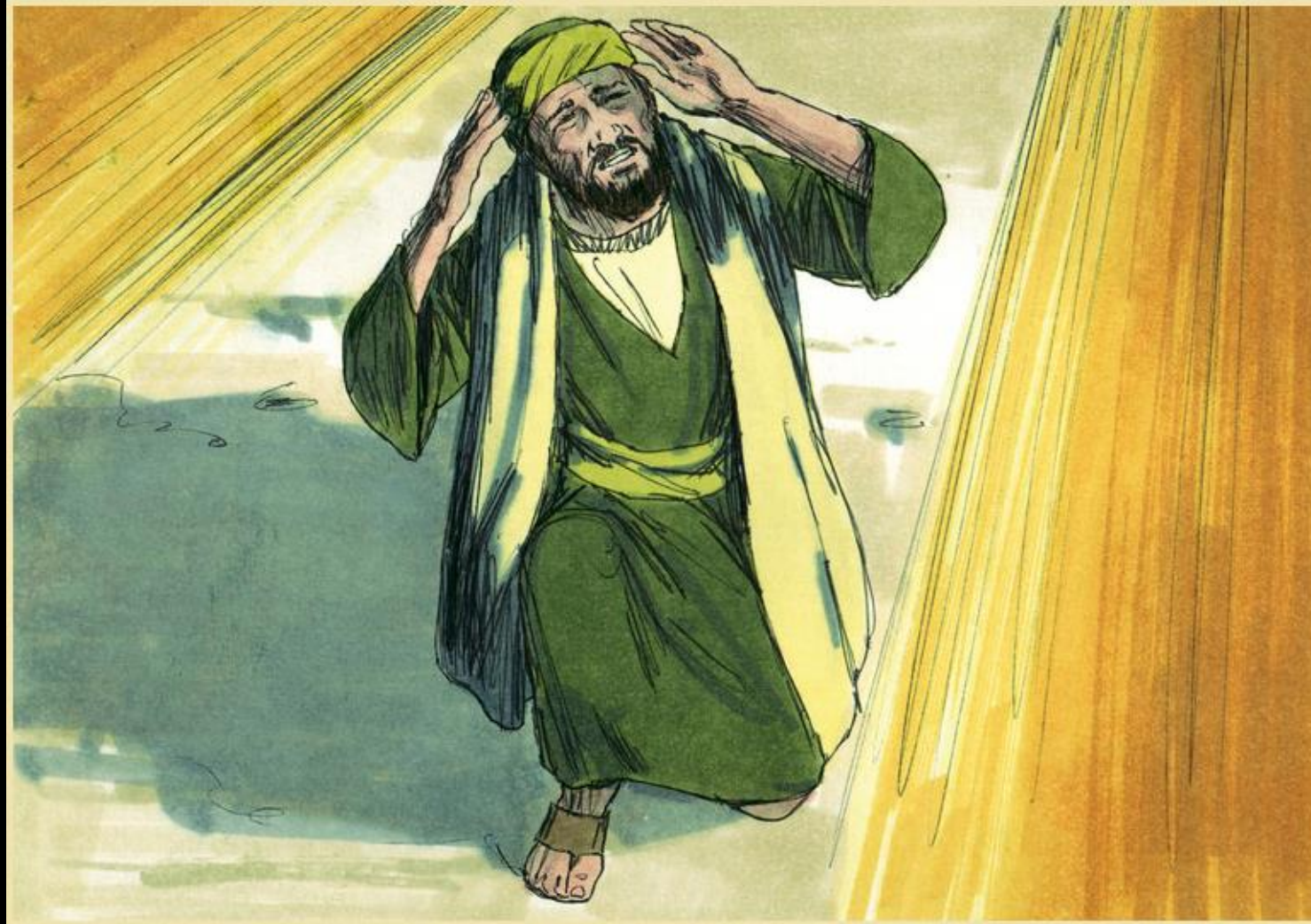


15

Principles of Evangelism

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. (8:26)



#1 Sometimes the Spirit will prompt you in a powerful way to invest in someone. When he does, **respond**...typically he is about to do something big! (v26)



Many times he will not prompt us...
but will simply allow us to be faithful and
look for opportunities.



Obedience

#2 Most of the people that God wants us to reach are not here...they are elsewhere! (v26)

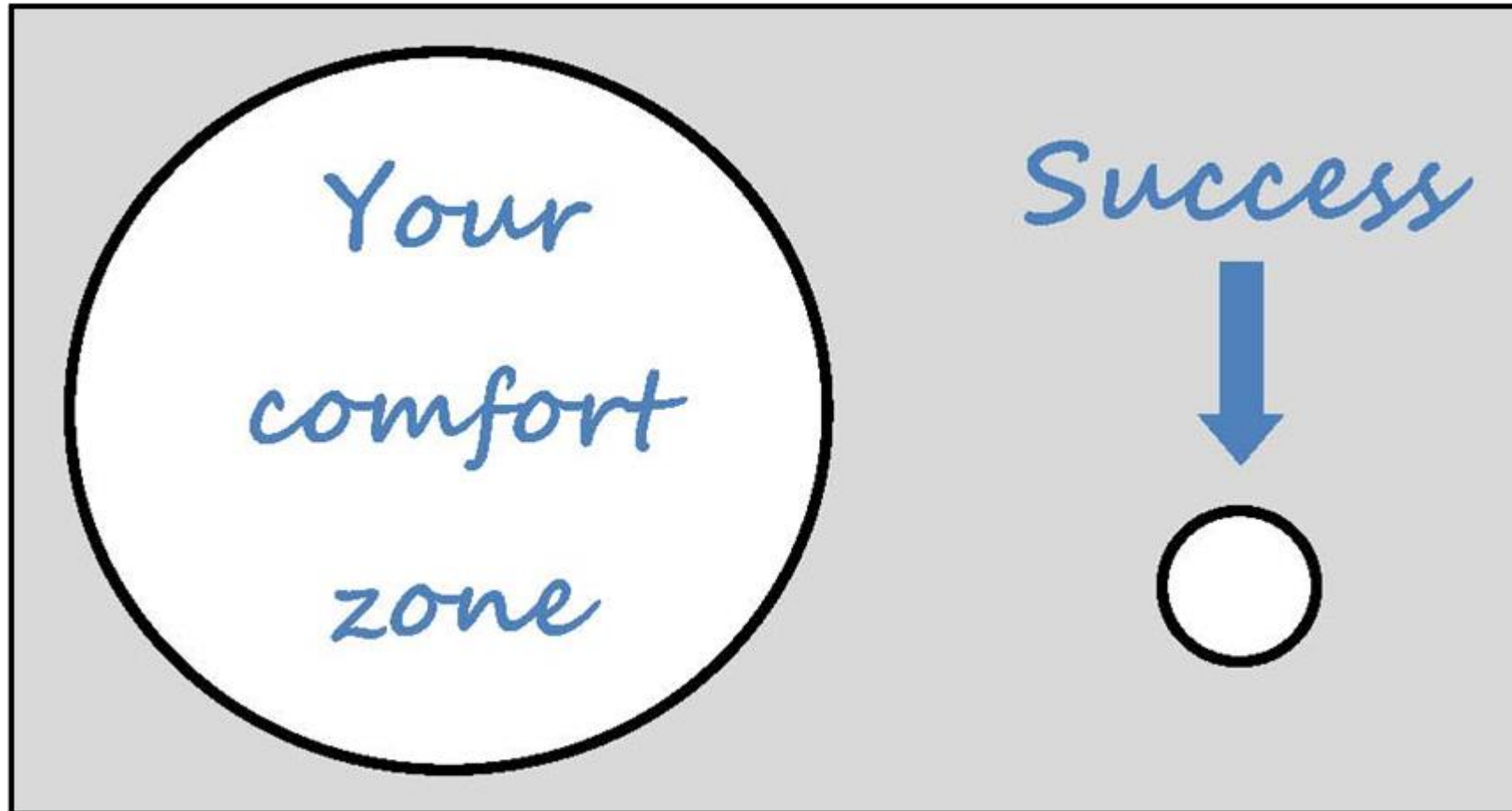


get out there!

#3 Most of the people that God wants us to reach will be found on a 'desert road' of inconvenience. (v26)



#4 Reaching the lost will almost always involve getting out of our comfort zone. (v26)



Practical Ways

Look for opportunities in
your sphere of influence.

Look for opportunities
to get into friends & co-workers homes.

Look for opportunities to
visit friends place of work etc.

Practical Ways

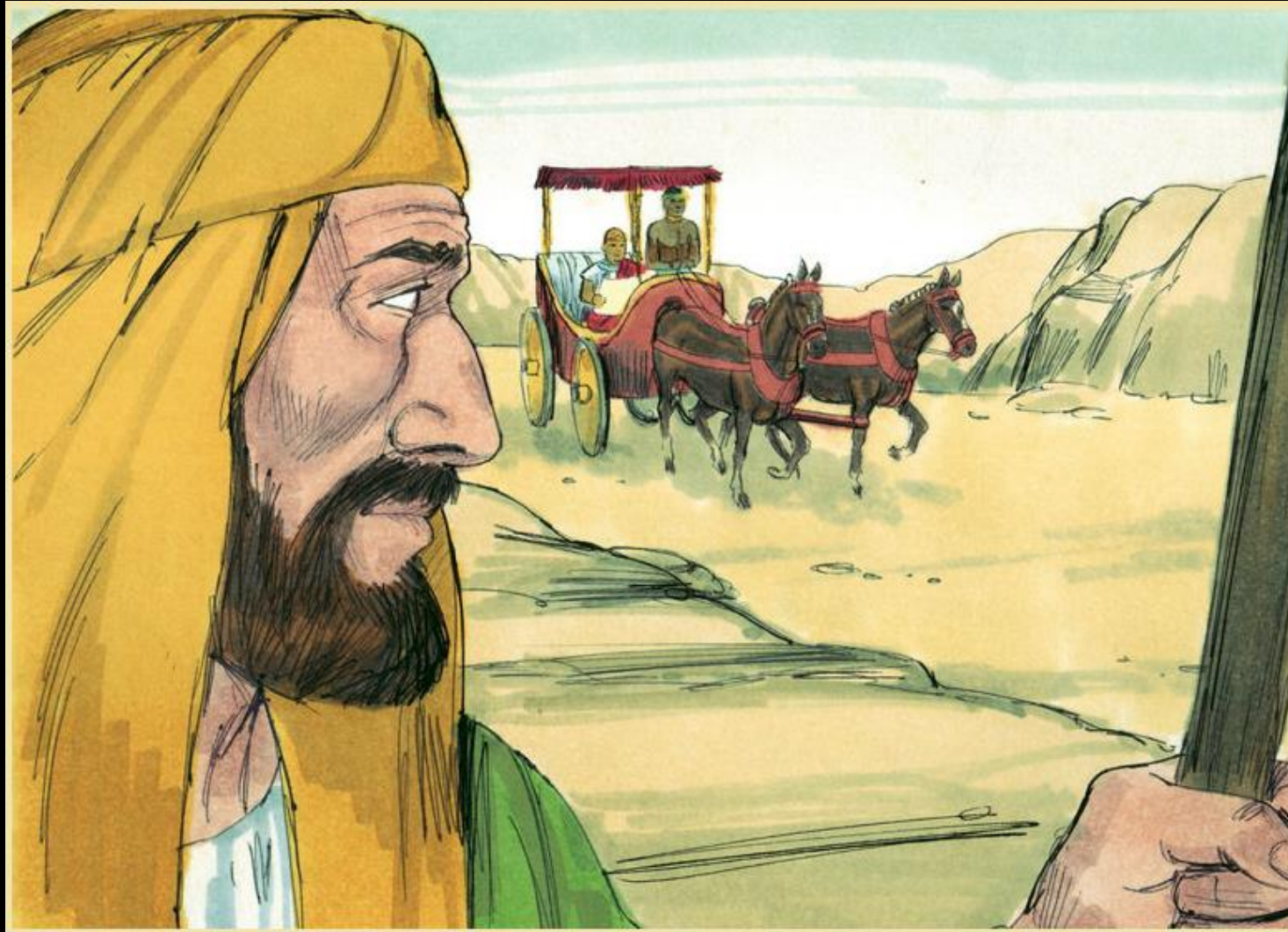
Expect and prepare for discomfort.

Take the initiative and actually rush to the place of most annoyance/greatest sacrifice.

Practice servanthood in your daily life.

Go to the back of the line, be the first to clean up the spill.

And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. (8:27)



#5 Reaching the lost will require us to meet & get to know people of different status, culture and ethnicity. (v27)



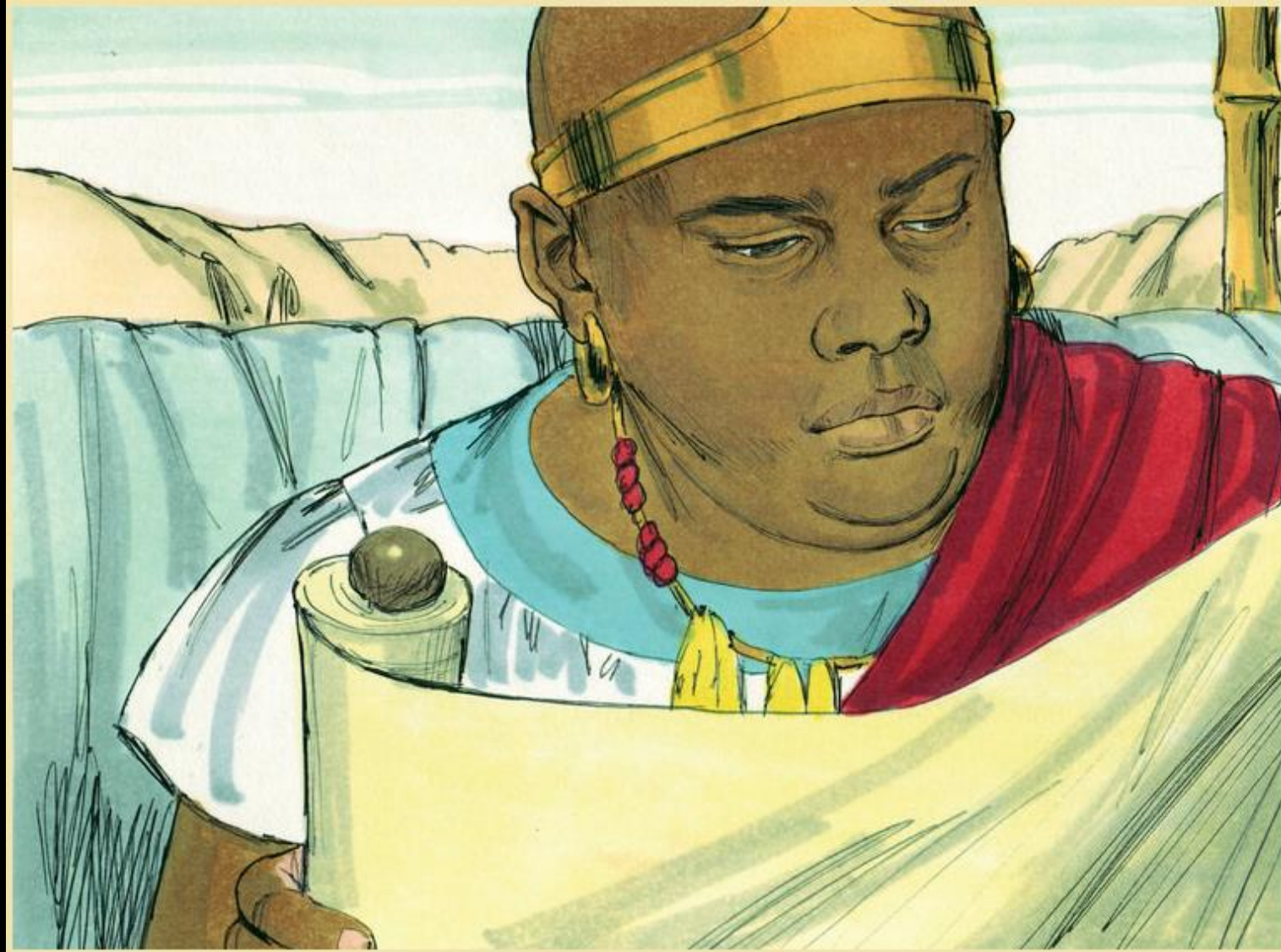
Practical Ways

God wants all kinds of men/women and women to be saved. If you don't know anyone different from yourself, you're in trouble.

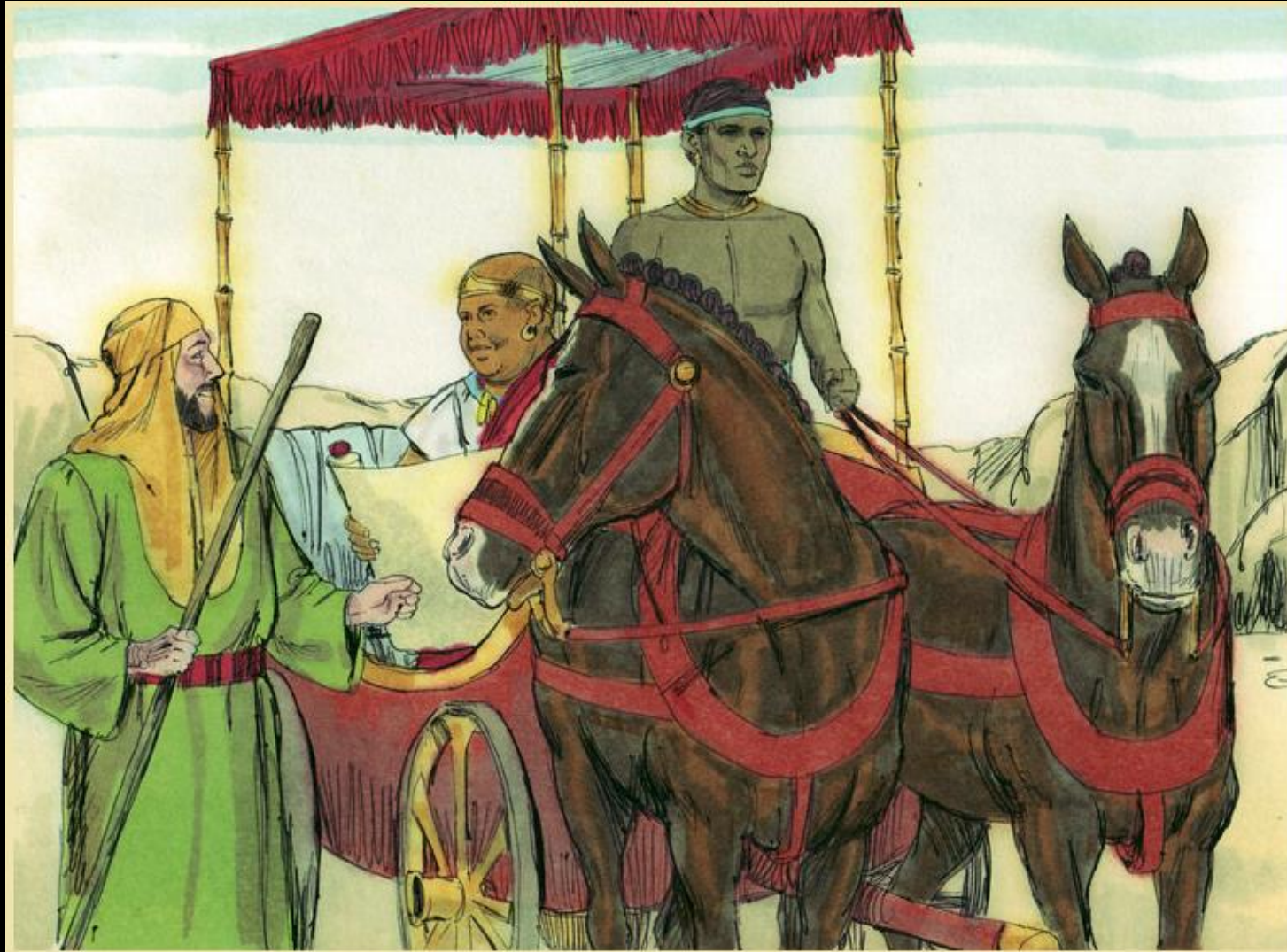
Take the initiative and look for people different from yourself to introduce yourself to.

Go to different places. Change up your routine. Go to new grocery stores, new restaurants. Pick up a new sport/hobby.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. (8:28)



And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (8:29-30)



#6 Reaching the lost involves asking a lot of questions and investigating 'where they're at'.
(v30)



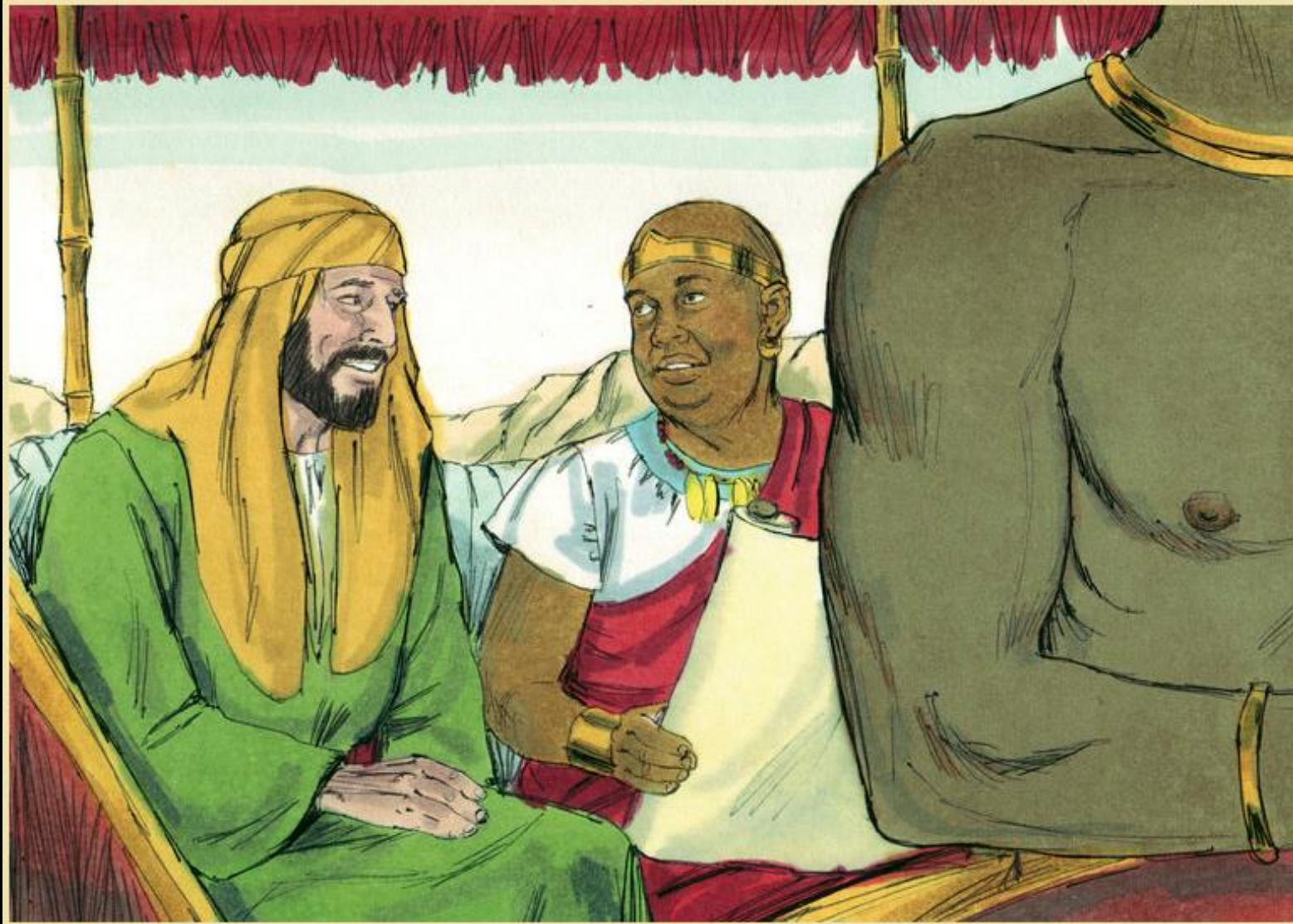
Practical Ways

Do your homework before approaching someone specifically.
Browse Facebook etc. to orient yourself on their likes and hobbies.

Be a good listener. Have an ear and eye open for what they like and dislike...how they think and how they view life.

Pre-plan certain questions to discover and even challenge their thinking.

And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (8:31)



#7 Reaching the lost will require us to meet people on their turf & join them in what they are already doing. (v31)



Practical Ways

Don't expect or even aim for people to come to church, church events or your house. Instead plan to go where they are.

Discover what the person you are investing in is interested in and join them in that. (Soccer, gardening, hunting...)

Plan opportunities when you can host or put on an occasion to get together and do some of those activities.

#8 Most times, effectively reaching the lost will require us to get one on one. (v31)



One-on-One

Practical Ways

Seek to build the relationship deeper so that one on one time is natural and expected.

Look for occasions when you can have non-distracting *(yet not totally boring)* one on one time.

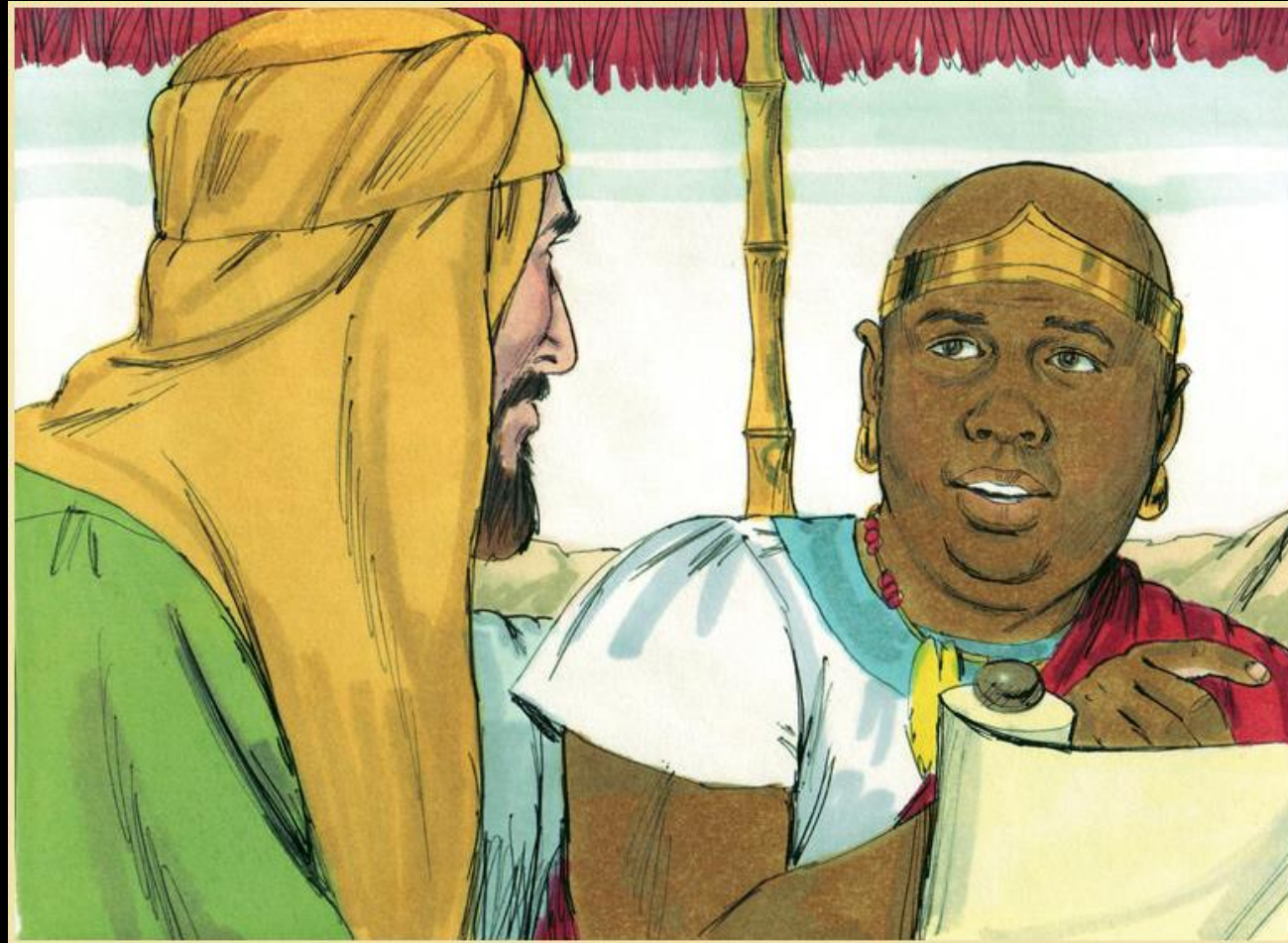
Go get coffee together. Plan weekly lunches together.
Bike, walk, jog together.

Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this (Isaiah 53:7-8):

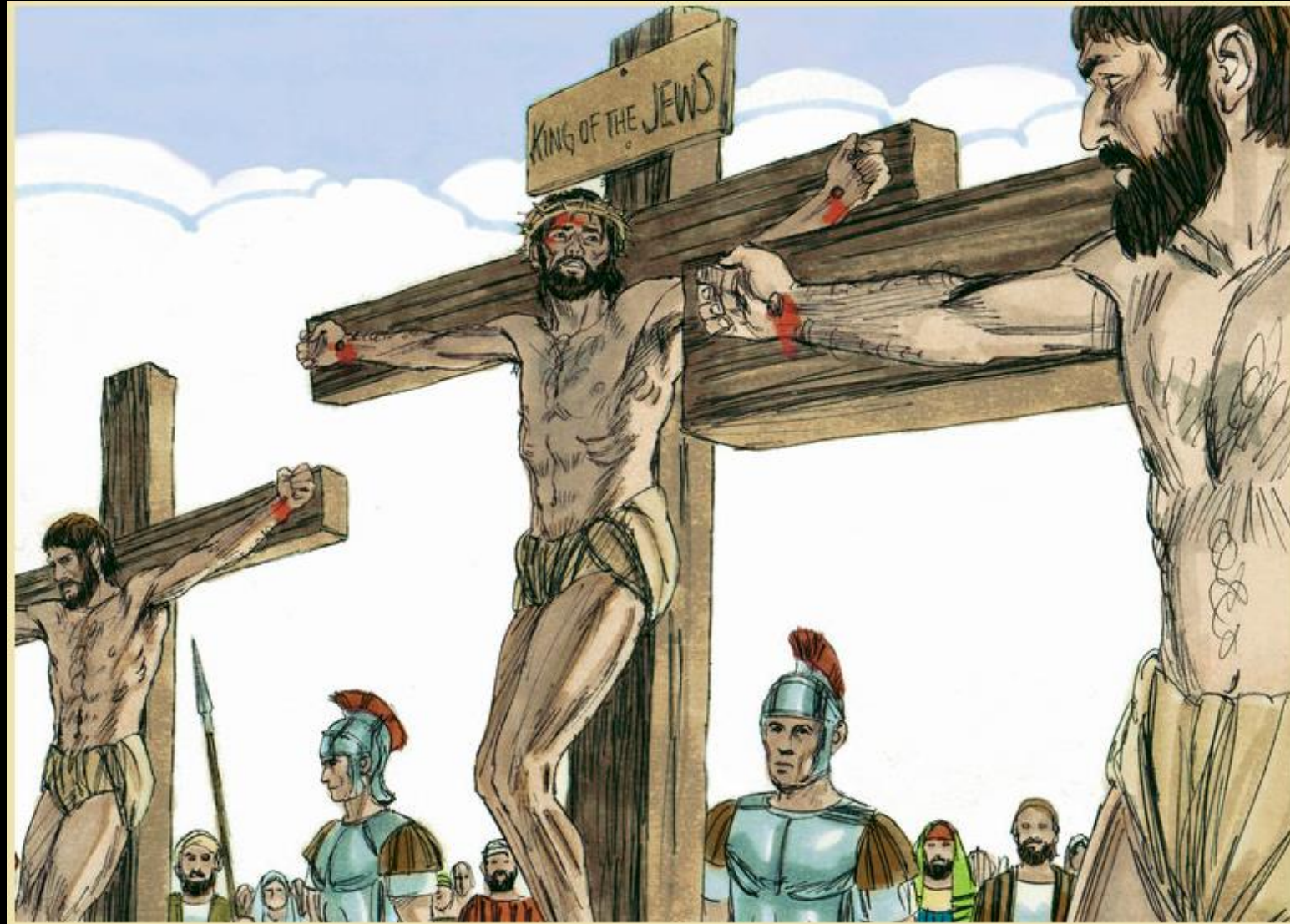


Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth. In his
humiliation justice was denied him. Who
can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.

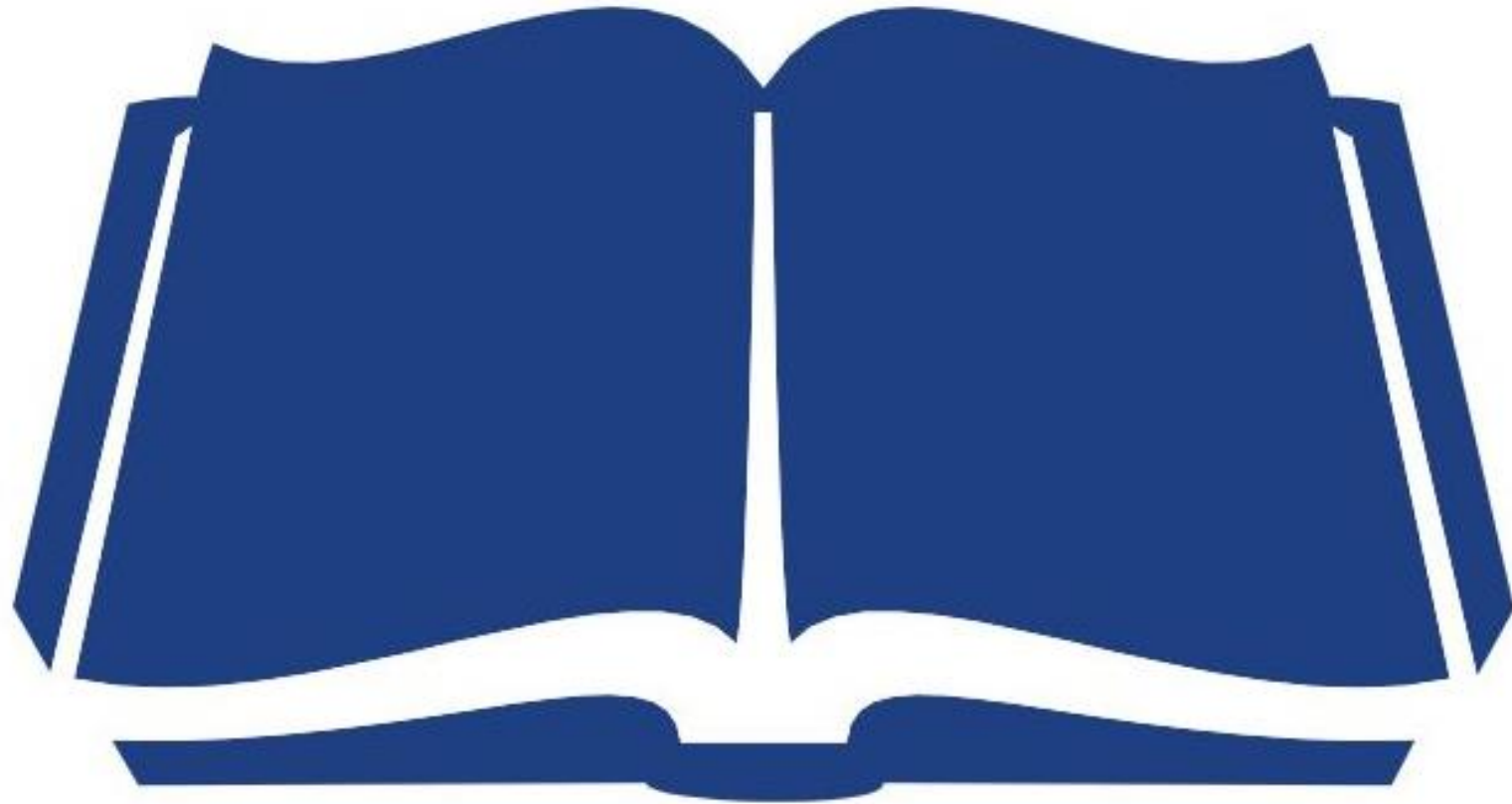
And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” (8:34)



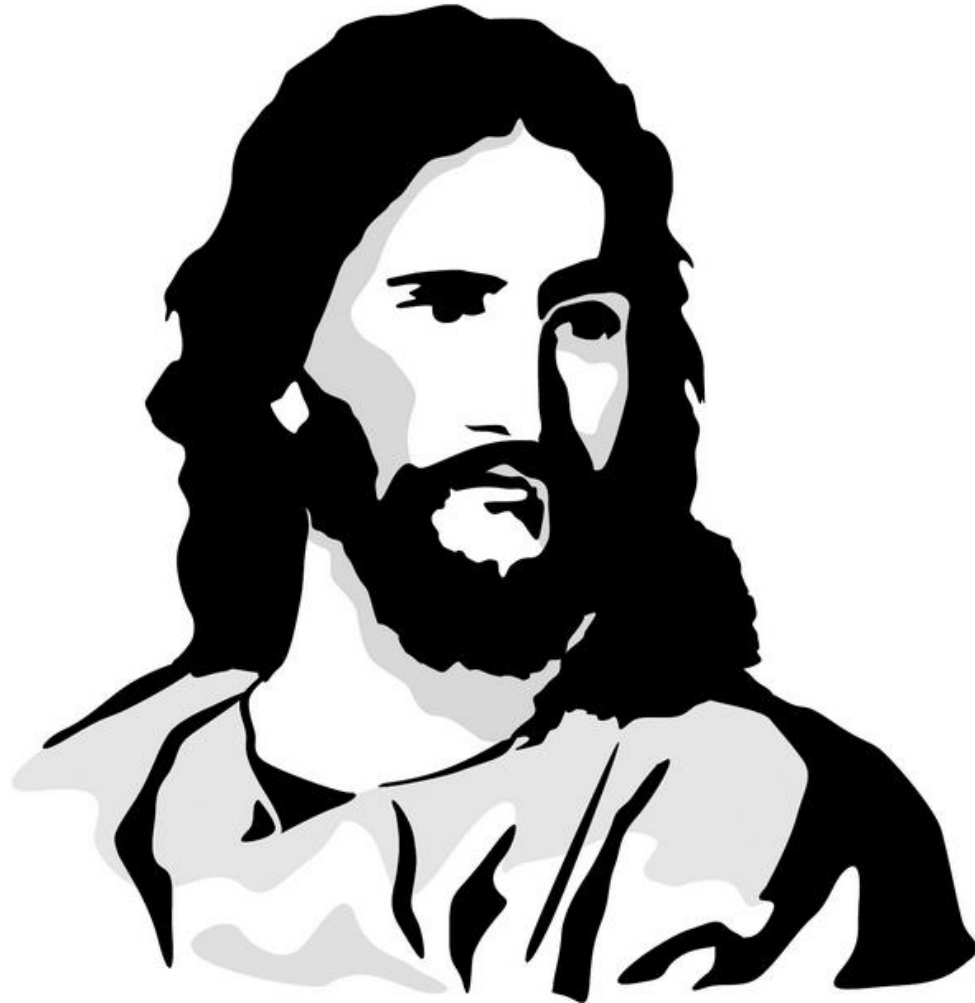
Then Philip began speaking, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (8:35)



#9 Reaching the lost will require being ready to explain the scripture to someone who is willing to listen. (v35)



#10 Evangelism is explaining what the scriptures say pertaining to Christ. (v35)



Practical Ways

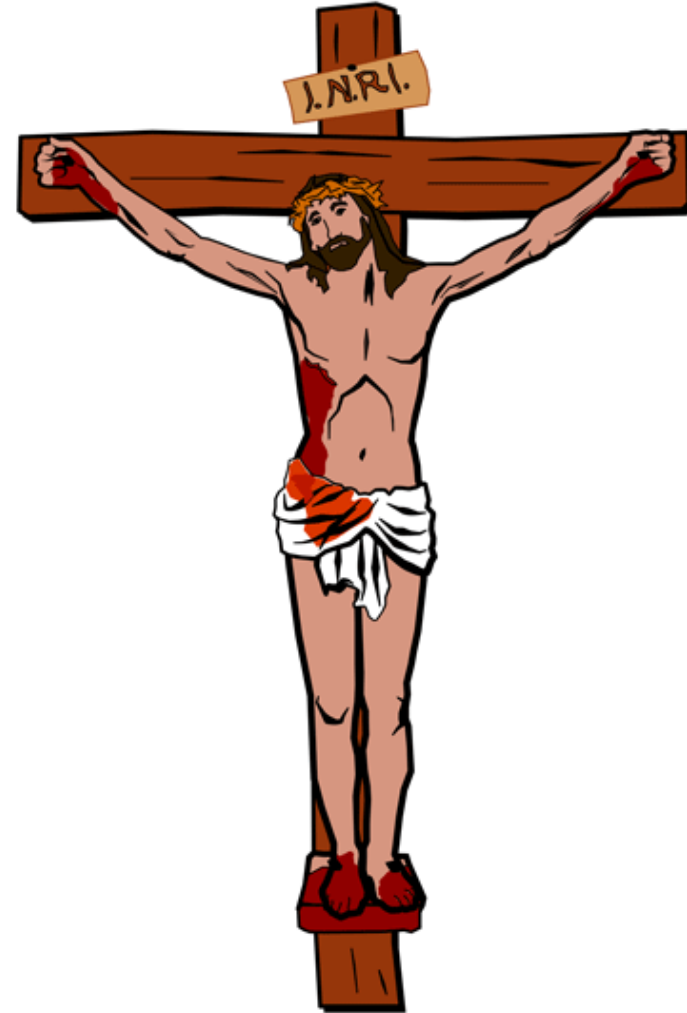
Before purposing deeper into the word of God review the fundamentals of the gospel and have key passages in mind.

Consider practicing your approach or main points with your spouse or another Christian friend.

Always aim everything as much as possible to Christ.
Who he is, why we need him, what he came to do etc.

#11 Reaching the lost will require explaining why Christ was the lamb who had to suffer and die.

(v35)



Practical Ways

Always remember that the goal in evangelism is salvation...
not heightened morality or increased awareness of God.

Understanding lostness, the cost of sin (*death*) and the demands of the law and redemption by a blood sacrifice are critical.

Emphasize salvation is specifically by faith in what God has said and what Christ has done... not what we can do... or believing in Christ 'generally'.

#12 Evangelism begins where people are at.
(v35)



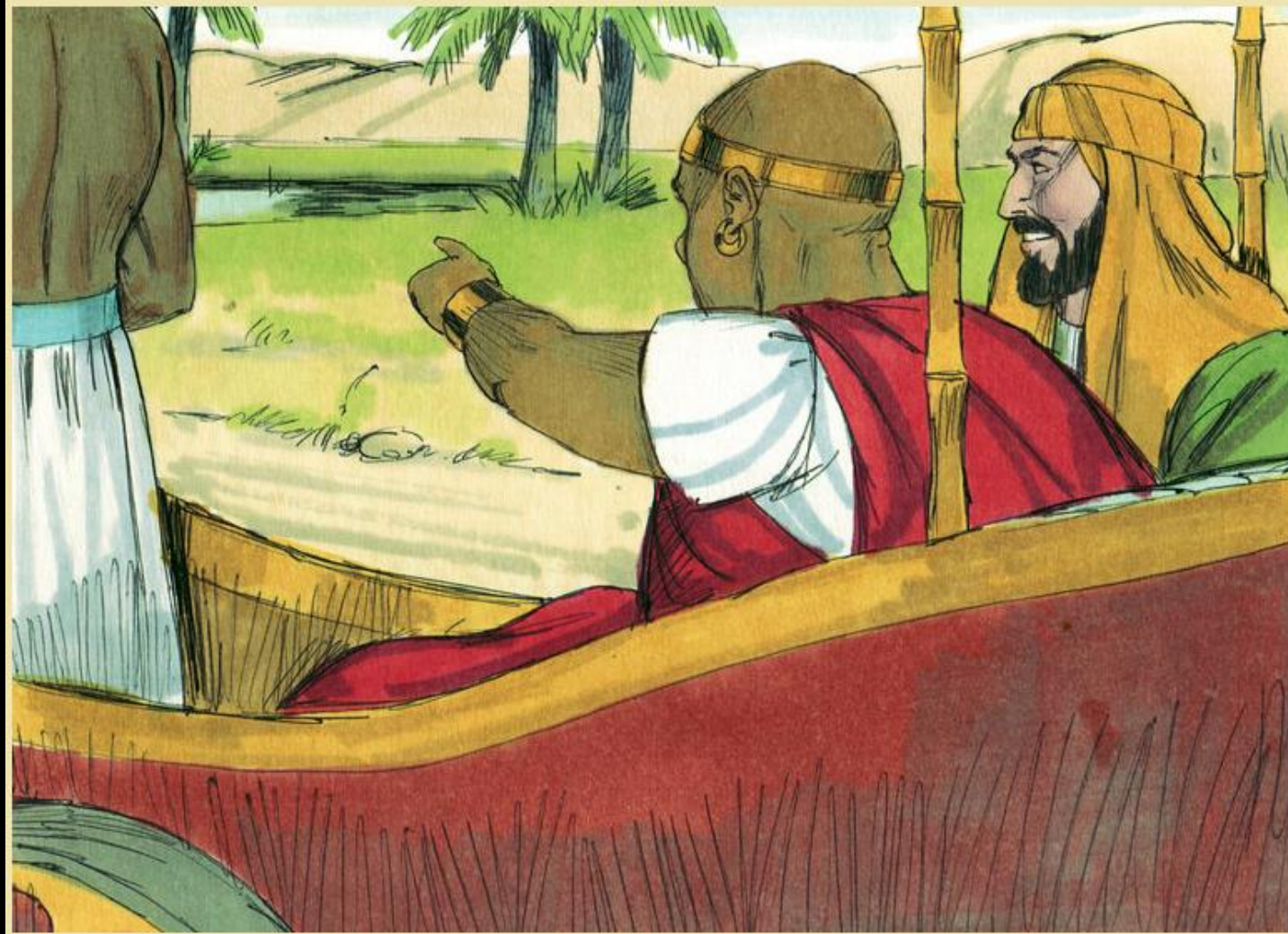
Practical Ways

Seek to understand where this person is at in their understanding or lack of understanding of God, sin, the Bible etc.

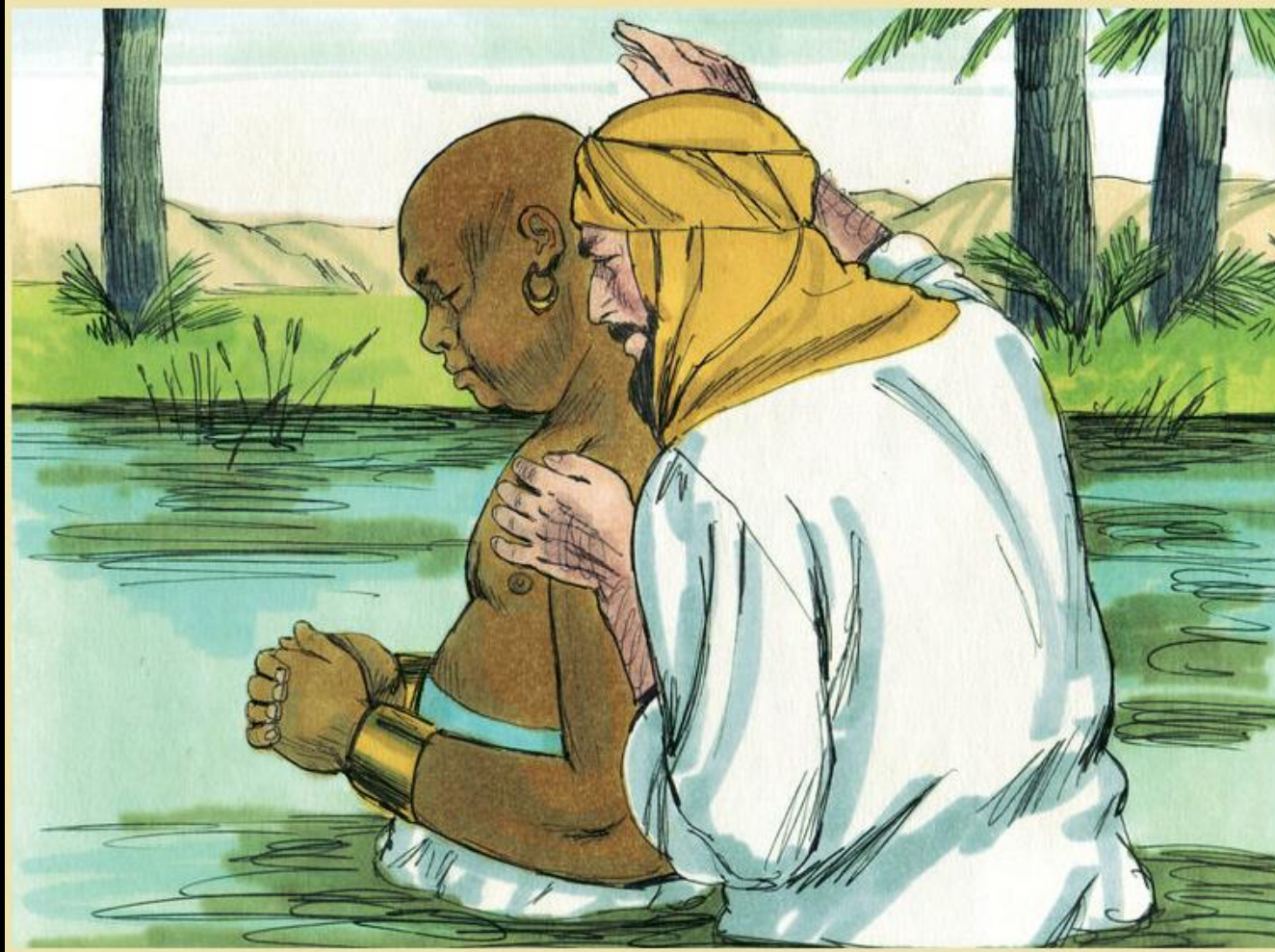
Seek to take them to the next level. Don't go for broke, rather celebrate small movements towards belief.

Don't be afraid to take your time and be willing to trust God with his timing. There is no real rush.

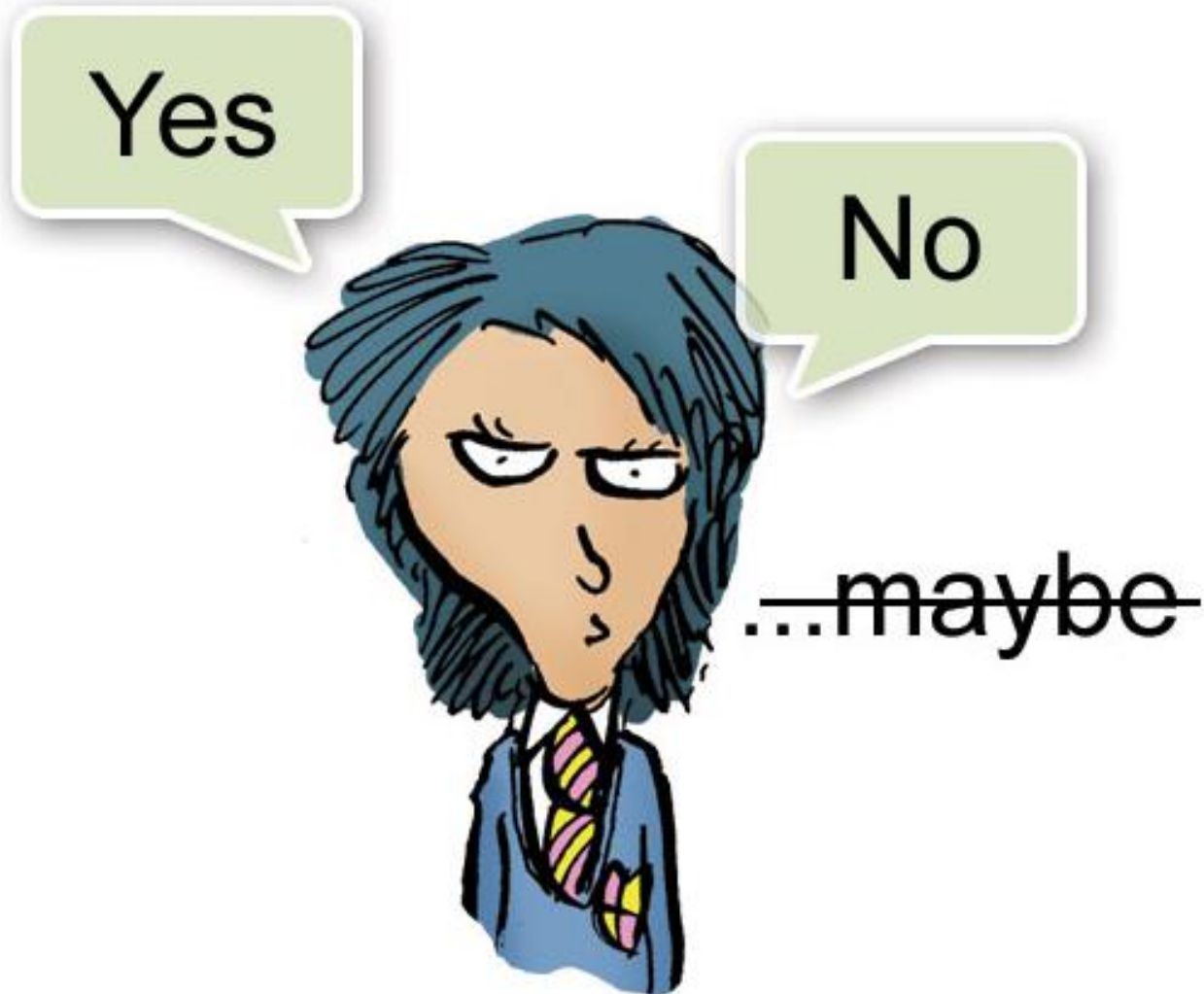
And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (8:36-37)



And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (8:38)



#13 Evangelism graciously seeks a response. (v33-38)



Practical Ways

Neutrality to the gospel message is condemnation.

Indecision is a decision. (*Jhn 3:18*)

Encourage them to repeat back to you what you have said...and ask for them to summarize what or how much of it they believe.

Do not have them recite a prayer etc. but rather model for them through prayer and dialog what they should be thinking, feeling and doing if they truly believe.

And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.(8:39)

#14 Evangelism may actually result in the salvation of a soul and great joy. (v39)

“

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It will never work

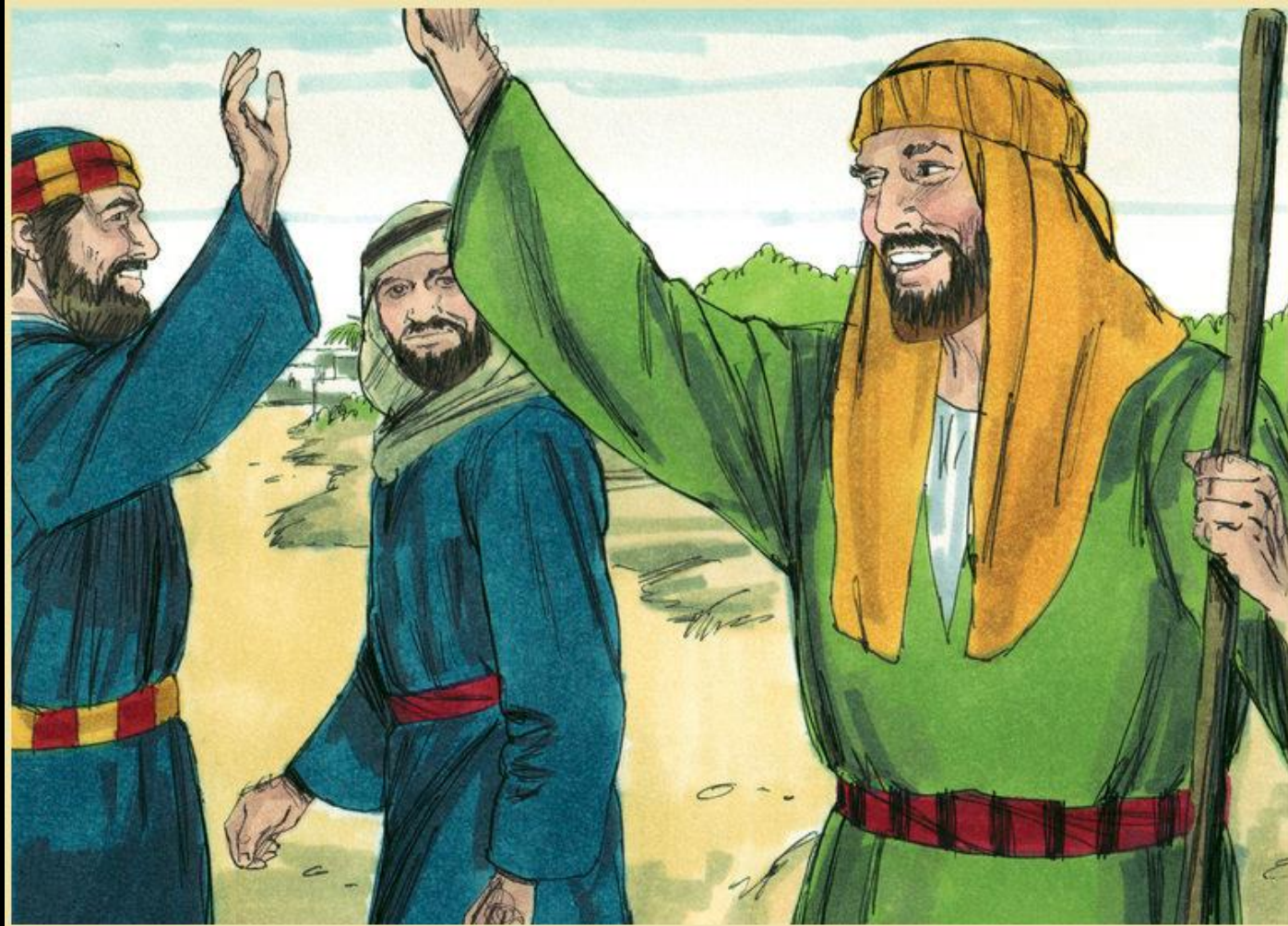
Practical Ways

Skepticism towards the effectiveness of evangelism is probably the #1 reason why we are not witnessing more.

Be expectant that God does want 'all men to be saved' and ask him to help you be clear as you speak etc. (*1Tim 2:4*)

Trust in God's timing. Your efforts will never be in vain in his eyes. Trust that no response now does not forfeit any future response.

But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (8:40)



#15 The task of evangelism is never over...there is always someone else who needs to hear the truth. (v39-40)



Practical Ways

Chances are that person you are investing in has 3-4 friends who also need the same message. Poke around.

Don't be fully satisfied or feel that you have 'done your duty' because you have led, or have tried to lead someone to the Lord.

Do not walk away from the person who you have been investing in. They may not truly, fully believe and even if they do, they need discipleship and more teaching/training.