

# seasons



## **Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV**

*<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

**Thriving is possible in EVERY season.**

## **Acts 8:4-8, 12-13**

*<sup>4</sup> But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. <sup>6</sup> Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. <sup>7</sup> Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.*

*<sup>12</sup> But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.*

**Thriving requires TRUSTING even when we cannot SEE or UNDERSTAND.**

## **Acts 8:26-27a**

*<sup>26</sup> As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."*

*<sup>27</sup> So he started out...*

## **2 Corinthians 5:7 [NIV]**

*We walk by faith, not by sight.*

**Where is Holy Spirit inviting you to TRUST today so that you can THRIVE in this season?**

## **How to receive forgiveness from God:**

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

**You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:**

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.*

**If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.**

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### **For Further Reflection:**

:: *Share one thing that you’ve learned or experienced as a result of our ‘Seasons’ series of conversations.*

:: *Each one of us are in the middle of a season of some sorts today. How would you describe the season you’re navigating in this moment? Are you thriving?*

:: *Pastor Justin shared the hopeful promise that “Thriving is possible in every season.” How have you experienced this in varying seasons of your life?*

:: *Take a moment to read Acts 8:4-13, 26-40. How do you think this promise embodied in the various seasons that Philip encounters?*

:: *Do you resonate with a particular season of Philip’s life shared in this passage?*

:: *Pastor Justin said that “Thriving requires trusting even when we cannot see or understand.” Why is this often so difficult?*

:: *How do you see Philip embody this in following God’s direction to go south?*

:: *Share a moment where you couldn’t see or understand what God was doing in a particular season. How did you respond? What would you do differently if you could do it over again?*

:: *Where is Holy Spirit inviting you to trust today so that you can thrive in this season? What next step(s) do you need to take to fully do so?*

:: *Ask someone to pray for you & help hold you accountable to take a next step.*

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

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*In every season, God is inviting us to connect more deeply with him, others, and our purpose. We encourage you to utilize the Orange Prayer Tags at our BridgePointe levee as you identify your season & commit to allow Holy Spirit to work in your life for the honor and glory of God! Know that we are praying for you as you grow with Him.*



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