Have you questioned God? Blamed God?
Who promises to come to your rescue?

Part 3 The Rock (10 - 15 Minutes)
Matthew 26:36-46, 52-54 (or Matthew 27:27-54, 28:5-10)
[Each person should read this Bible passage silently — then consider each statement
with the group at your table.]
Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to His Father to have the atonement
happen some other way? Is our Rock (Jesus) weak?
Who does our Rock (Jesus) connect with?
What distractions are there?
How does our Rock (Jesus) meet His hard place?
Jesus is our Rock! Yet at the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, our
Rock meets a hard place. We are in the middle. Gethsemane literally means “oil press”.
Olive oil comes from — you guessed it — olives being squished between a rock and
a hard place. Jesus pours out Himself to His Father. His Father responds, “This is the
way. These are the people. Through You I will show My love for them. Through You
I will show my grace for them. Through You I will crush their sin once and for all.
Through You it will be accomplished.”

“God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become
the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

God uses those squeezing, squishing times between a rock and a hard place to cause us
to depend on the only One who could withstand the “oil press” — Our Savior, Jesus.
Take a few moments to contemplate God’s strength, His love, and mercy displayed in
Jesus, and thank Him.

Part 4 Praise and Prayer (As long as you want!)
“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” (LSB 716) (LW 513) (TLH 649)
“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” (Songs for Disciples 31)
“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” (LSB 575) (LW 368) (TLH 370)
In your prayers, honor God for the depth of His love shown to you. Thank Him for
being our Rock. Praise Him for the victory He gives us.

For additional study: Psalm 102, Psalm 55

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Just Go!
By Shari Miller

Have you ever found yourself
in a situation where you knew
God was working in your life in
a very special way? Maybe the
time, place, people, and events
all seemed to line up beautifully
for an opportunity to witness,
to serve, to help, to encourage,
to comfort, or to rejoice. Share
your experience with the group
or with a partner.

Opening Prayer: Dear Father,
We praise You for creating us
and giving us life. We especially thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to be our Savior.
We glorify You for the new life we have because of Jesus’ death and resurrection
for us. Be with us as we study Your Word. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

Read Acts 8:26-40 and Romans 8:28. On the road to Gaza, what circumstances
worked together for Philip and the Ethiopian’s good?

TIME

God chose just the right TIME for Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch to meet on the
Gaza road. Discuss God’s timing in this event. (See Acts 8:26-30.)

What do the following Bible passages remind us about God’s timing?
Romans 5:5-7.
2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (Isaiah 49:8)
Galatians 4:3-5
Galatians 6:8-10
1 Timothy 2:5-6

[If time] Share with a partner or the group a TIME when you had a Gaza road
experience — an opportunity to witness about God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

TASK

God prepared just the right TASK for Philip on the Gaza road. What was Philip’s
task? (See Acts 8:30-38.)
Philip's primary task was to share about salvation in Jesus Christ. Read Isaiah 53:7-8, the passage Philip shared with the Ethiopian. What was the Suffering Servant's primary task?

How does the Holy Spirit work saving faith in our lives?

Romans 10:14-17
Mark 16:16a

What tasks does God prepare for His saved people in the following passages?

Isaiah 52:7
Matthew 9:37-38
Matthew 28:16-20
Acts 20:24
Galatians 2:7-8

Galatians 2:7-8

→ [If time] Read the following passages. Identify the task and the task achiever.

Proverbs 31:17
Matthew 9:35-36; Luke 8:1
Mark 16:15-16

→ [If time] List specific tasks God might have for you or your group to do (i.e., lend a helping hand in a given situation, provide “a cup of cool water,” or transport someone to the hospital).

→ [If time] Can you name at least five Biblical characters that performed a God-given task in God's time?

JOY in the Journey

What happened to Philip after he shared the Good News of salvation with the Ethiopian? (See Acts 8:38-39.) Read the following Bible passages and note similar responses.

Psalm 28:7
Psalm 51:12
Psalm 95:1-3

What was the Ethiopian's response to news of salvation in Jesus? (See Acts 8:38-39.) Read the following Bible passages and note similar responses.

Isaiah 12:2-4
Luke 15:3-7
Romans 15:13

Can you imagine the conversation when the Ethiopian eunuch returned to the queen's palace and his own quarters? What do you think he might have said? Maybe he said something like: “You'll never believe this, but while I was riding in the chariot on the Gaza road, this complete stranger approached me, noticed that I was reading the book of Isaiah, and told me all about the Suffering Servant…”

JUST GO!...That's what our God asks us to do. He promises that he has a TIME and a TASK for each of us. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Acts 1:9.

Yes, we JUST GO with the blessing of our God! What excitement! What a life! As you look forward to your next Gaza road experience, may you have JOY in your journey!

Read together Ephesians 3:20-21 as the closing prayer:

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Sing: “Go into the World” (All God's People Sing! 101) or “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling” (TLH 496, LW 318, LSB 826).

Shari Miller resides in Helena, Montana, and is the wife of Rev. Larry and mother of Joshua and Johanna. She has authored numerous Bible studies and program helps sold in the LWML Catalog. Shari has held positions in national, district, zone, and local LWML levels. She is currently a member of the Quarterly staff.

Dear God,

You are my Creator and have given me diverse talents and abilities.

For the sake of Your Son, and my Savior, Jesus, forgive me for the times that I have not used the gifts You have given me, but rather kept them hidden away. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to encourage me to step out boldly, trusting in the promise that You are with me. Help me see that new challenges can be opportunities to serve You! This I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.