

Beyond Awkward

When Talking About Jesus Is Outside Your Comfort Zone

Cool
Ok I guess
Weird
Really uncomfortable
Really?
Awkward

Amazing
So Cool

Awkwardness Precedes Breakthrough

Acts 8

The Spirit, Philip, and the Ethiopian

| Spirit | Philip | Ethiopian |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Go South</p> <p>Go to that Chariot</p> | <p>Follows the Spirit's prompting by going south</p> <p>Follows the Spirit's prompting by running up to chariot</p> <p>Heard the man reading Scripture</p> <p>Initiates a conversation by asking a question</p> <p>Continues conversation as Ethiopian seems receptive</p> <p>Explains the good news in response to the Ethiopians question</p> <p>Baptizes him</p> <p>Continues to share good news as the Spirit leads</p> | <p>Went to Jerusalem to worship</p> <p>On way back reading Isaiah</p> <p>Invites Philip into chariot to explain passage</p> <p>Asked Philip question</p> <p>Asked to be baptized</p> |

The Role of The Spirit

How would you describe the Spirit's role in the transformation process?

Why does the Spirit direct Philip where to go but not what to say? Why is he so active at the beginning but seemingly silent in the conversation?

The Role of The Seeker

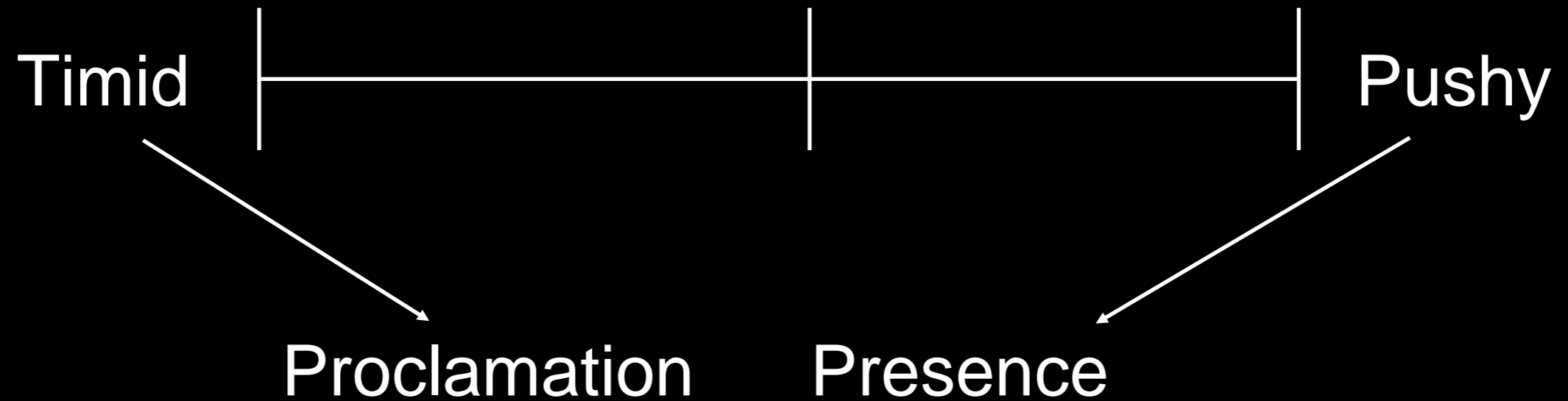
How would you describe the Ethiopians role
in the transformation process?

The Role of The Evangelist

How would you describe Philip's role in the transformation process?

Do you think Philip is being pushy by initiating conversation? Why or why not?

Patient/Bold



Check the Curiosity Pulse

#1 Break The Ice

#2 What is the Curiosity

Case Study

You are walking through your neighborhood and you come upon someone out in their yard. You say hi to them and all of a sudden you find yourself in a conversation with them about life.

Discuss

- How would you normally think about this situation? What has been your default frame of mind?
- How would you view this situation now with your new frame of mind?
- What are three good questions you could ask your friend to find some handles?

Case Study

You end up talking to them about your family and work and also what you do for fun on the weekend. They asked you if you watched the Bears on Sundays and besides the fact that they are bad, you tell them you don't watch them much because of church activities. They were surprised you went to church, but you decide to ask them, "what is your spiritual background?" and they responded that they had a little bit of one, they went to church a little bit with their family when they were a kid. And they have gone a few times here and there as an adult.

You were tempted to end the conversation there, but since you are believing the harvest is ready you ask them one more question, "what do you think about Jesus or Church now? What's changed?" and they respond by telling you that they are pretty much over it. Church is not really for them because it was pretty boring and there were a lot of hypocritical people. That they don't think you need to be a Christian to have a relationship with God.

Discuss

- **What is the potential handle emerging in this story?**
- **What are one or two more questions you would want to ask them to find out more?**
- **How is Jesus good news to this person? What might they need to hear about Jesus considering their context?**
- **Are there any personal stories you could share with them? How could you let them know you relate?**
- **What stories of Jesus could you share with them? What would you point out about Jesus considering their context?**
- **What are one to two invitations you could extend to your friend?**