

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
June 21, 2017



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### *Staff Outing*

*This week we are having a trivia night in the lounge! Questions will range from sports, to pop-culture, to academic subjects, and more! Winning team will receive a gift certificate to B&B's!*

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### **Philip**

Names are important, and the meaning behind a name can tell you a lot about someone. Philip was a Jew, born to Jewish parents in a Jewish community. But his name is Greek.

Why did his parents give him a Greek name instead of a traditional Jewish name? Who knows! However, because of his name I believe that Philip was uniquely qualified to reach a community that was totally uninterested in God.

Who better to reach the Greek people than someone with a Greek name. At the last supper, John's gospel tells us that Philip was approached by a group of Greeks who said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Why Philip? We don't really know, but perhaps they felt comfortable approaching someone with a name they could pronounce!

From here we go on to read in Acts and many of Paul's letters that God has a heart for the Gentiles (the non-Jews) – that would include the Greeks. I can only imagine that Philip would have played a valuable part in all of that.

Years from now, it will be interesting to look back and think about how God may have been preparing you to make a connection with someone. Take some time to stop and think – what are some frustrations in your life – how might God be shaping and molding you for the future?



## God uses our past and our mistakes.

Phillip grew up in a Jewish community but had a Greek name. Phillip could have been made fun of for having a Greek name. But God will sometimes use our past, even something as simple as our names to build the kingdom of Heaven. We also know that Phillip wasn't perfect. Phillip probably made some mistakes while following Jesus. God can use our mistakes to build the kingdom of God. Mistakes help us learn and grow. Here is a passage from Bill Allison's book *Disciplemakers Guide to Grow, Minister, & Lead*:

Mistakes are the stepping stones to growth. In the process of inventing incandescent light, the extraordinary Thomas Edison was once asked,

"How does it feel to have failed 10,000 times in your present venture?" Edison is said to have responded, "I have not failed at anything 10,000 times. I have successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work." Edison later estimated that he performed over 14,000 experiments in the process of inventing and perfecting incandescent light. Edison understood that mistakes are required if you want to learn and grow.

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*Some of the best lessons  
we ever learn are  
learned from past  
mistakes. The error of  
the past is the wisdom  
and success of the  
future.*

*- Dale Turner*

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Your personal growth and development as a volunteer in the church or at a camp require you to make mistakes-and then learn from them (Note: When I speak of making mistakes in your volunteer ministry, I'm not talking about sin. All sins are mistakes, but not all mistakes are sins.) Elbert Hubbard was particularly insightful when he wrote, "The greatest mistake one can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one." Rick Warren says, "If you're not making mistakes, then you're not trying anything new. If you're not trying anything new, then you're not learning. If you are not learning, then you're already out of date." Making mistakes is an important part of learning. The key is to not repeat the mistake. A mistake is only a failure when we don't learn from it.

