



# Philip – The Practical

Adapted from “12 Disciples” series by Dennis Marquardt.

Philip would have made a great American because he loved the practical things. It is the practical people that drives the American market system. Philip was the practical one of the twelve disciples. Practical people are the ones that figure out how to get things done. There is even a saying about this: *"Necessity is the mother of invention."* There are people who by their nature are always practical.

Among the women who followed Jesus, Martha was the most practical and Philip had that distinction among the men. You might say that practicality rules the planet.

For instance, in Tokyo, there are paid muscle men with white gloves that do nothing except push people into commuter trains so they can carry as many people as possible.

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Exchanging "money" became more practical than bartering large objects back and forth, hence the development of the paper currency system.

Indoor plumbing and bathrooms was created to serve the practical need of not having to travel outdoors to deal with basic human needs.

The list goes on and on: cars, telephones, refrigerators, etc. All of these things exist to serve “practical” needs. The "practical" saint is often hardworking, faithful, and gets things done. Often, his or her struggle is with faith. God, however, has a great love for those who are "practical". Practical people are valued followers of Christ.

Philip had strong Greek connections. Thus, he was deeply influenced by Greek science, philosophy and culture. The Greeks were deeply rational and practical people. This created unique struggles with Philip’s faith, but he served faithfully and grew. The Lord never gave up on Philip, and God will not give up on you either, even if you are one of those “practical” saints.

## “COURAGE” Level Questions

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

**John 1:43–46 (ESV)** The next day Jesus decided to go to galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “we have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

**John 6:5–7 (ESV)** Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”

**John 12:20–23 (ESV)** Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked

him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the son of man to be glorified.”

**John 14:6–14 (ESV)** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the father. How can you say, ‘show us the father’? Do you not believe that I am in the father and the father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the father and the father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that

the father may be glorified in the son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

**C1:** In John 12:20-23, the Greeks went to Philip seeking Jesus because he was Greek. Has anyone ever come to you seeking Jesus because of who you are? Describe the time. If not, why not?

**C2:** Philip is often found with Andrew, a friend. Is there a friend in your life that can help you become more faithful in your walk as a godly man?

**C3:** Are you being a friend to others in helping them become more faithful?

**C4:** In learning about Philip's practicality, would you consider yourself to be practical when it comes to the things of God?

**C5:** Philip teaches that being practical is a good thing especially when things need to get done. Describe a time when your practicality helped to get things done.

**C6:** Being practical like Philip can so influence your faith, that you need to see for yourself rather than believe by faith. Has being practical in your life ever held you back from being faithful?

**C7:** Philip often looked at the natural rather than the spiritual. How can you change your view of the natural and look more to the spiritual when it comes to how you view life?

**Exercise #2:** Describe how you can become more faithful in the things of God and still get things done.

## **“STRENGTH” Level Questions**

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

**John 1:43–46 (ESV)**

**John 6:5–7 (ESV)**

**John 12:20–23 (ESV)**

**John 14:6–14 (ESV)**

**S1:** When Jesus is about to perform a great miracle in **John 6:5-7 (ESV)**, He challenges Philip to believe by faith rather than physical sight. How can you increase your faith without seeing?

**Exercise #2:** Read **John 12:20-23 (ESV)** again.

**S2:** Why do you think Philip brought the Greeks to his friend, Andrew, rather than to Jesus?

**S3:** Philip walked with Jesus for three years yet still wanted to physically see the Father. Why do you feel he may have missed the point of Jesus being the Way, the Truth and the Life?

**S4:** Have you ever missed the point due to being practical in the things of God? Describe it.

**S5:** Learning about Philip and being practical, does it take more strength to be practical or to be faithful? Why?

**Exercise #3:** List reasons why being practical spiritually would be helpful; then list reasons why being practical spiritually would not be helpful.

**Exercise #4:** On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being *very practical spiritually* and 4 being *not very practical spiritually*, rate yourself on how practical you are in spiritual things. Write out a plan to balance both practical and spiritual aspects of your life.

**S6:** Being practical can hurt your walk of faith because you think you need to see to believe. How can you step away from being overly practical in that way and become more faithful in believing what the Word says?

**Exercise #5:** Describe some strategies or approaches you might use when talking to a very practical man about Jesus or the Bible.

**S7:** Why would Philip call Jesus the son of Joseph rather than the Son of God?

**Exercise #6:** Over the next 30 days, develop write out a plan for being less practical and more faith-filled in the things God is asking you to do. Keep a journal on what God is showing and asking you to do. Think about what patterns you see.

## **“ENDURANCE” Level Questions**

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

**John 1:43–46 (ESV)**

**John 6:5–7 (ESV)**

**John 12:20–23 (ESV)**

**John 14:6–14 (ESV)**

**E1:** Even after walking with Christ for a while, you may still allow your practical nature to lead you like Philip in **John 14:6-14 (ESV)**. How can you make sure there is a balance between your practical nature and the spiritual nature?

**E2:** Read **John 6:5-7 (ESV)** again. Jesus tested Philip to see with *the eyes of faith*. How do you feel Philip performed in this area?

**E3:** Has God ever tested you to see with spiritual eyes rather than practical eyes? Describe the situation.

**E4:** Read **John 14:6-14 (ESV)** again. What did you learn from these verses?

**E5:** Read in **John 1:43-46 (ESV)** again. What did you learn from these verses?

**E6:** Philip's life was influenced greatly by what he could see, touch, taste, hear, and smell until he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. How important is the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?

**E7:** Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, what is keeping you from receiving the Holy Spirit?

**Exercise #2:** On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being *very practical* and 4 being *very faithful*, rate yourself on where you lean when God asks you to do something for His Kingdom. Write out a plan to balance your practical and faithful sides. How can the Holy Spirit help you in this area?

**Exercise #3:** Write out a 90-day plan on how you can disciple men to be balanced in their practical and spiritual life in the things of God. Find three men, with whom you can enter a 90-day journey of growth in this area.