

Almere, Netherlands (Protestant Church in the Netherlands “the congregation that starts from scratch”



THINKING ABOUT:

the congregation that starts from scratch



WATCH THE VIDEO and as you do ask:

- As you watch the film of Almere what do you find encouraging and what things surprising?
- How do Pieter and Klazien minister go about starting the new faith community in Almere?
- What are some of the characteristics of church you see in the Almere film and when you see them appear?



DIGGING DEEPER Read Acts 8: 26-36

The reading tells the exciting story of Philip and the Ethiopian government official and how being led by the Holy Spirit Philip shares the good news of Jesus Christ with him. The Ethiopian official cannot completely understand the prophet Isaiah which he is reading as he travels so Philip explains and tells him about Jesus. The official comes to faith, receives the Holy Spirit and is baptised. Immediately he is on his way home and this is one way in which the good news continues to spread.

- How is the Holy Spirit active in this Bible story and how does the Holy Spirit use Philip?
- Are there other Bible stories where people’s failure initial failure to understand the Bible leads to new ways of understanding?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in mission?



MOVING FORWARDS: So now think about how this could apply in your context

- “In my experience church is a physical building. People enter it and leave it together. This is quite new for me.” How does the Almere film challenge your ideas about what church should look like and be?

- If you were starting from scratch what of your current church would you continue and what would you leave behind?
- Acts 8 and Pieter's words "Faith isn't meant to stay within the church walls" remind us to go beyond ourselves in mission. How is your church going beyond itself to reach others in mission?