

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: Hello My Name Is

Week 2: Acts 8:26-40

Main Idea: God uses ordinary believers who are available and willing to go where He sends them, and He works through their obedience to reach people who need the good news of Jesus.

Reference Texts Mentioned in the Sermon

Acts 8:26-40, Isaiah 53:7-8, Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 28:19-20

Context

This passage comes right after Philip's fruitful ministry in Samaria, yet the Lord calls him away from a large work to a desert road for one person. That contrast is central to the sermon: God's measure of faithfulness is often different from ours. Pastor Seth also highlights that the Ethiopian eunuch would have been seen as an outsider in multiple ways, yet he is seeking God, reading Isaiah, and is personally pursued by the Lord through Philip. Philip hears the eunuch reading Isaiah aloud and asks whether he understands what he is reading. When the eunuch admits that he needs someone to guide him, Philip begins with that passage of Scripture and tells him the good news about Jesus. The story becomes a powerful picture of God using an ordinary believer to pursue an outcast and welcome him into His family.

Key Takeaways

- Believe that Christ wants to use you
 - Be available
 - Live sent
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Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 8:26-27a together. Philip is sent away from a large, fruitful ministry in Samaria to a desert road for one person. What does this show us about how God measures success differently than we do? Why is it hard for us to value obedience when it looks small?

2. Look at Acts 8:26-31 together. What is encouraging about Philip's ordinary obedience? Why do so many believers struggle to believe that Christ actually wants to use them, not just more gifted or more experienced Christians? How does this story push back on that way of thinking?

3. Read Acts 8:27-28 together. Pastor Seth emphasizes that the Ethiopian eunuch would have been seen as an outsider in multiple ways. How does that deepen the power of this moment? What does this teach us about the kinds of people Jesus welcomes, and the kinds of people we may overlook?

4. Read Acts 8:29-35 together. Philip asks a question, responds to where the eunuch is, and begins with the Scripture already in front of him. What stands out about that approach? What might this teach us about helping someone understand the gospel without forcing or manipulating the conversation?

5. Read Acts 8:32-35 together, and if helpful also read Isaiah 53:7-8. Why is it significant that Philip begins with this passage and tells him the good news about Jesus? What does this reveal about how Scripture points us to Christ?

6. Read Acts 8:36-38 together, and if helpful also read Romans 6:3-4. Pastor Seth emphasizes that baptism means more here than a religious moment. How does this scene show movement from distance to belonging, from outsider to full inclusion in God's people? Why would that have been especially powerful for this man?

7. Read Acts 8:29-31 again together. Philip was available not only to go somewhere, but to notice, ask, and step into the moment in front of him. Which part of that kind of availability is hardest for you right now? What tends to keep us too distracted or self-conscious to do the same?

8. Read Acts 8:39-40 together. After this one encounter, Philip keeps preaching the gospel as he goes. What does that show us about the pattern of the Christian life? How does this challenge the idea that faith is mainly about attending church instead of living sent through the week?

9. Look back over the whole passage together. Pastor Seth presses the church to think less abstractly and more personally. Who is in front of you right now that may need the good news, welcome, and a church home? What would it look like to go toward that person this week?

10. Looking back at the whole passage and the takeaways, which one most hits home for you right now: **Believe that Christ wants to use you, Be available, or Live sent?** What is one concrete way you can respond this week?