

Growth Group Questions – August 2nd, 2020

Introduction Questions:

- How are you doing?
 - [This question will always be here – it's optional, but may help bring the passage back to mind if you meet later in the week] - If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Read: Acts 8:26-40

Understanding Questions:

- What does an angel command Philip to do after his time with the Samaritans?
- Why was the Ethiopian eunuch on the same road as Philip? Where had he been traveling and what was he doing when Philip encountered him?
- What question does the eunuch have about the passage from Isaiah he his reading?
- Who first realizes that the eunuch could be baptized right now?
- What did the eunuch do after Philip disappeared?

Application Questions:

Like in Samaria, God continues to reach those outside of the current community of believers. In this case, the Ethiopian eunuch had already been searching for God long before he met Philip. Have you ever felt like you were searching for God and God provided something or someone to help you in that search? When and where?

Philip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch scripture. However, the eunuch, in asking Philip to baptize him, pushes Philip to go even further than he was thinking. In a sense, the eunuch teaches the teacher. Has there ever been a moment when someone you thought you were teaching ends up instructing you?

Additional Notes:

- The conversion of Ethiopian eunuch, from a region vastly removed from Jerusalem, signals the fulfillment of the promise to all those who are *far away* (Acts 2:39).
- Acts 8:27: “Ethiopian” in Luke’s world meant anyone with dark skin, particularly persons from territories south of Egypt.
- As a eunuch – someone who has been set aside for service in a royal court by physically altering them at a young age to prevent them from having children – he could not be a Jew or proselyte to Judaism, and so his story foreshadows that of Cornelius in Acts 10-11.
- The eunuch is reading a passage from Isaiah 53:7-8.
- Acts 8:39: The prompting of *the Spirit* accentuates the fact that God stands behind the meeting of these two individuals.
- The city of Azotus is about twenty-two miles north of Gaza near the Mediterranean coast.