SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Divine Purpose

Acts 8:26-40 | May 24, 2026

FIRST BAPTIST METUCHEN

Acts 8:26-40 ESV - [26] Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. [27] And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship [28] and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. [29] And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” [30] So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” [31] And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. [32] Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.
[33] In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

[34] And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” [35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. [36] And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” [38] And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. [39] And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. [40] But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. Who is Philip? What has he been doing before our story?

2. Who is the Ethiopian eunuch? What does the passage tell us about him?

3. The Ethiopian is reading from Isaiah 53. How does this passage correspond to what you know about Jesus?

4. What steps did Philip take to share the Good News with the Ethiopian eunuch?

5. How does the Ethiopian eunuch respond? What does he do next?

What does Philip do next?

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. How might Philip have felt about leaving his ministry in Samaria?

2. What was God doing to bring this whole episode about?

(over >)

3. Did God need Philip to accomplish this? Why do you think He used him in this way?

4. Why does God take Philip away rather than have him continue with the Ethiopian on his journey?

APPLICATION | *How should this change us?*

1. Where might God be asking you to move from the known and trust Him with the unknown?

2. What keeps you from engaging with others about spiritual things?

3. What are some questions you can use to discover someone's thoughts about Christ and other spiritual matters?

4. Write down 5 people that you will pray for the opportunity to share Christ with this summer (and pray for them regularly)

5. Who has been someone who's helped guide you in your walk with Christ? Consider reaching out to thank them.

6. Who is someone you can either ask to help guide you or that you can come alongside yourself?

7. How has God divinely been working behind the scenes in your journey with Him? Where have you seen God use you to take the Good News to others?

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISE REPORTS