



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

| *November 10 - 16* |

Acts 8:26-40

Things to Know

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Gospel Connections and Conversations

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Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon *Recap*

- God has designed the mission to go forward by His power and our participation.
 - The gospel moves forward when ordinary believers obey extraordinary assignments.
 - Every harvest moment God creates requires a human obedient response.
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Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 8:26–27 — What stands out to you about Philip’s obedience? Why is immediate obedience often so difficult for us?
 2. Read Acts 8:29–31 — Philip *ran* toward the assignment. Where has God asked you to “run” toward obedience recently?
 3. Read Acts 8:32–35 — How does this text show that the gospel is good news, not good advice?
 4. Read Acts 8:36–38 — Why should baptism be an immediate response to repentance and faith?
 5. Read John 4:35 — What would it look like to see your routine daily environments (gym, school, workplace, driveway, team sports, neighborhood) as harvest fields that are already ready?
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Read

Read Acts 8:26-40 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south[a] 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?”^[b] **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.

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Acts 8:26-40

Living on Mission In Community

The mission of God is not reserved for the elite, the clergy, the platform holders, or the spiritually gifted few. God is already arranging conversations, aligning hearts, and preparing people around each of us — just like He did for Philip. Our calling is simply to obey. The harvest is not waiting on more strategy, more comfort, or more information — the harvest is waiting on obedience. If God is sovereignly arranging divine appointments around you this week, who is the one person God is calling you to intentionally pursue with the gospel right now?

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?

- *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*

2. How did you feed others?

- *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*

3. How did you feed your flesh?

- *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources - Nov 10-16

Small Group Curriculum: Acts 8:26-40

Theme: God Sends – We Obey. Jesus Saves – We Respond.

Main Idea: God has designed the mission to go forward by His power and our participation.

Opening

Prayer: “Lord, open our eyes to the harvest around us and give us the courage to obey You immediately when You call.”

Icebreaker: Break into groups of 2–3. Ask:

- Where is one place / relationship in your current rhythm of life that you *already* sense God might be preparing a harvest?

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26–40

Teaching Points + Commentary

1. God Sends – We Obey (vv. 26–31)

God did not simply hope the gospel would spread — He orchestrated it. Philip’s assignment wasn’t random. God arranged the persecution (8:1–4), God commanded (8:26), and God brought the Ethiopian into proximity (8:27–30).

Commentary: Mission begins with God’s initiative — not ours. Evangelism is not us forcing doors open. Evangelism is walking through the divine appointments God is already setting in front of us.

Quote (Spurgeon):

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”

Philip didn’t negotiate. He didn’t ask for clarity. He didn’t ask for logistical explanation. He just obeyed. He ran.

Personal Reflection Prompt: Where do I slow down, hesitate, excuse, overthink... where Philip ran?

2. Jesus Saves – We Respond (vv. 32–35)

Philip shows the Ethiopian that Isaiah 53 is pointing to Jesus — the Lamb who silently suffered divine wrath in our place.

Commentary:

The gospel is good news — not good advice. Good advice tells you what **you** must do. Good news announces what **Christ** has already done.

Quote (Tim Keller):

“The gospel is not advice on how to live but news of what has been done for you.”

Jesus endured injustice so sinners could be made right with God. Salvation is not a second chance — it is a new birth.

3. The Gospel Demands Response (vv. 36–40)

The Ethiopian doesn’t delay. He doesn’t wait. He doesn’t negotiate. He responds. He repents. He is baptized.

Commentary:

Repentance is not merely an emotional moment — it is a directional change. On ancient battlefields “repent” meant to pivot. Turn. Change direction. Baptism is the outward sign that real change has already taken place.

Philip continues preaching the gospel in verse 40 — because obedience isn’t a season... it is a lifestyle.

Quote (A.W. Tozer):

“The true Christian longs to be holy. He is not satisfied until he is as close to God as he can get.”

Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 8:26–27 — What do these verses teach us about God’s role in mission and our role in mission?
2. Read Acts 8:29–31 — Philip *ran*. Where do you struggle to obey God quickly?
3. Read Acts 8:32–35 — Why must the gospel be declared as **news** rather than **moral improvement advice**?
4. Read Acts 2:37–38 + Acts 8:36–38 — Why are repentance and baptism the biblical pattern of response?
5. Who is your “Ethiopian” right now — the one person God might be setting before you?

Application

The harvest is not waiting on more skill, more confidence, more time, or more preparation — the harvest is waiting on obedience. God is faithfully arranging divine moments around you every week. Our call is not to force spiritual results but to faithfully step into spiritual assignments. Your greatest missional story will almost always start with a simple “yes” in an ordinary moment that God turns extraordinary.

Who is the one person the Holy Spirit is calling you to run toward this week?

Leader's Notes

- Keep the group focused on mission not theory.
- Press them to name a real person by name before prayer time.
- End with praying *specifically* for boldness, obedience, and gospel opportunity this week.

