

TAKEAWAY

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Part Sixteen: Acts 8:26-40



At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

SHARE

- When did you last experience something that made you – to your surprise – joyful?
- What different circles of friends and people groups are you a part of and what drew you to them?

INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts shares the account of the early church as they take the gospel, which is *for everyone everywhere, to everyone everywhere*. The later part of chapter eight continues to follow Philip, an early church leader, who fled Jerusalem following the death of Stephen and began sharing the gospel in Samaria. Philip has appears to have quickly outgrown his administrative duties and now, turned evangelist to those in the non-Jewish world. In this session, we'll unpack how God is drawing those from different backgrounds and ethnicities to Him as Philip meets another outsider – an Ethiopian official.

READ

Acts 8:26-40

DISCUSS

What stands out to you most about the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch? Why?

Philip was having great success in Samaria, yet God sent him somewhere that initially seemed much less significant. Why do you think God sometimes asks people to “go” before explaining why? How do we respond when we don't understand what He's doing?

Despite his status and education, the Ethiopian says, “*How can I, unless someone explains it to me?*” (verse 31). What does this teach us about humility and understanding the Bible?

Why can it be difficult for us to admit, especially in group discussions around scripture, “I don't understand” or “I might be wrong”?

When it comes to understanding Scripture, humility may be more important than academic ability. Do you agree? What does humility look like when we read the Bible?

Philip meets someone from a very different background, culture and experience from his own. What does the way Philip approaches him teach us about talking to people who are different from us?

“If in doubt, talk about Jesus.” What do you think that means practically? How might we sometimes make Christianity more complicated than it needs to be?

What barriers might stop someone today from thinking Christianity is “for them”? Which of those barriers come from Christianity itself, and which might come from people's assumptions about it?

The Ethiopian doesn't just leave with new information — he goes away rejoicing. Why do you think Christians today can know the gospel intellectually but sometimes struggle to feel joyful about it?

If you were investigating Christianity from scratch, what questions would you most want answered?

What is one thing from this passage you think God might be inviting you to do, believe, reconsider, or investigate? Discuss these as try outs...

TRY OUT

- Is there anything from the last discussion question that you'd like to 'try out' or explore this week? Tell someone in the group and ask them to check-in with how you got on.
- When invited, Philip climbed into the Ethiopian's chariot and took the opportunity to answer their questions. How can you figuratively get into someone's chariot and ride along side so you have the opportunity to tell the good news about Jesus? Think about your week and the relationships around you. What questions might your friends, colleagues and family be wrestling with that you could explore further? What actions might you take to encourage conversations about faith?
- Who can you continue to pray for to know Jesus?

PRAY

- Pray for anything that has come up in your discussion and for opportunities to speak of Jesus, and that we might be available to God's leading.