

## Carpe Tempus!

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Acts 8:26-40

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## SETTING THE SCENE

- » Describe a time when you felt that you truly heard God's voice (or at least His clear direction for you). What was He saying to you? How did it happen (audible voice, inward impression, etc.)? Do you generally have a hard time hearing God's voice or does it come easy for you? Explain why you think that's the case.
- » Describe a time when God asked you to do something you didn't really want to do. Did you do it or not? Explain why. Looking back, would you have done anything differently? Do you think God still speaks to us today? If so, how does He speak to us? If not, why not?

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## THE STUDY

- » Share your overall thoughts and impressions from the sermon this morning. What things stand out to you? What did you learn? Where did God most challenge you? What questions do you still have about the passage or the sermon?
- » Read **ACTS 8:26-40** out loud as a group. What is your initial reaction to this story and how the events unfolded? What do we as a church need to learn from this passage? What specifically do you need to put into practice?
- » What role did Philip play in the evolution of the early church? What was he originally "signed up" to do (see **ACTS 6:1-6**)? Once the persecution of the church hit, where did Philip go and what were the results (see **ACTS 8:1-25**)? Where does this story take place (see **ACTS 8:26**) and who is Philip talking to (see **ACTS 8:27**)? With all of this in mind, read **ACTS 1:8** and discuss the role Philip played in fulfilling this command.
- » What was the command that God gave to Philip in **ACTS 8:26**? How did Philip hear this command? How did he respond to the command? What was unusual (if anything) about what God was asking him to do? How would you have responded in the same circumstances (be honest)?
- » Why was it so unusual for a foreigner like the Ethiopian eunuch to have and be reading from the book of Isaiah? What does that tell us about him? According to the message this morning, what might have sparked the eunuch's pilgrimage to Jerusalem (see **ISAIAH 56:3-8**)? Why was this important?
- » Philip asks the eunuch in **ACTS 8:30**, "Do you understand what you are reading?" How does the eunuch respond? What lesson(s) should we take away from both Philip's question as well as the response he got? Have you ever shied away from asking someone "the Big Question"? Why or why not? What were the results?
- » What passage was the eunuch reading when Philip met him (see **ISAIAH 53:3-9**)? What's important about this passage and how did Philip use it to talk about Jesus? What does this passage say to you personally? What was the eunuch's response to Philip's teaching? Was this a result of Philip's education and experience or something else? Explain your answer.
- » Do you think it was okay for Philip to baptize the eunuch on the spot instead of waiting for the apostles (i.e.: Peter and John who came to Samaria) to perform this "official function"? Explain your answer. Is it okay for believers today to be "baptized on the spot" Why or why not?
- » What happened immediately after Philip baptized the eunuch (see **ACTS 8:39-40**)? Do you think this was a miracle or is Luke simply using some hyperbole here? Does it matter? What was the eunuch's response to Philip disappearing?
- » Why do you think Luke included this particular story at this particular point in the Acts narrative? How does it relate back to Jesus' command in **ACTS 1:8**? What's about to happen next in the "story" of the early church? Why is this so important and why does Luke spend so much time setting it up?

# APPLICATION

- » Share with the group what God said to you during communion this morning. Was this easy or difficult for you (to listen and hear God's voice)? Write down what God taught you or asked you to do in the space below:
  - » Do you feel like you seize the opportunities that God places in your life to share the gospel with others? Why or why not? What needs to change so that you can start seizing them?
  - » As a group discuss what it means to hear God's voice and then spend some quiet time in reflection and prayer together asking God to speak to each of you individually. In our culture, it's often hard to be quiet for any length of time, but try and spend at least 5 minutes listening to God and then share with the group what you heard. Is He trying to teach you something? Is He asking you to do something? Discuss as a group.
  - » Share with the group the name of at least one person you know that needs a personal relationship with Christ. Pray together that God will open doors of opportunity—and that you will seize those opportunities—to share your faith with that person(s).
  - » Share any unanswered questions or comments you have as a result of the group discussion or sermon...
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## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- » Next week we get introduced to one of the “big names” in early Christendom—Saul/Paul. Share with the group what you know about Saul (before his conversion). From memory, discuss how Saul became Paul...what was his conversion experience like? Why do you think God used those circumstances? Why do you think God picked Saul? Would we have picked him? Why or why not (and what does that say about our selection process versus God's)?
  - » Read **ACTS 9:1-30** and take note of anything new you learn or any big questions you have during your reading. Is there anything specifically that stands out to you? Why do you think that is? What do you need to learn more about? What do you think is the key verse in this story? Why?
  - » Take notes as you read this story this week and come prepared next Sunday and for the next group discussion to make sure they get answered.
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## CARING COMMUNITY

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...