



Main Passage: Acts 8:26-40

Theological Theme

The Lord directs His followers to reach the world with the gospel and not judge or rank people according to race, gender, culture, or anything else. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation and that applies to every person we encounter.

Introduction

- ? What feelings of being left out did you deal with as a kid?
- ? How does the Sneetches story relate to our society today?

1. The Right Place (Acts 8:26-28)

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and gave him instruction. When we read about the Lord speaking to someone in the Bible in a dramatic fashion, it can be tempting to question why we don't have the same kind of experiences ourselves. We must understand that God still speaks today, even though it might be in different ways. Our job is to listen and obey.

- ? How confident are you that God has spoken to you this week? How does that change the way you listen to/for Him?
- ? When has your obedience to the Lord put you in position to be part of something bigger than you had in mind?
- ? Application: What needs to change in your life to show obedience to God daily?

2. The Right Time (Acts 8:29-35)

The Lord continued to speak to Philip and told him to go and talk to the man in the chariot. Again, when God spoke, Philip responded immediately. Philip did as the Lord directed him, setting up the encounter with a man who was able to take the gospel into a completely different country. There was no delayed obedience; it was immediate and complete.

- ? When was a time you waited for certain things to happen before you took the next step with God? Why is this a problem?
- ? What do you think would be different if you and every believer started obeying God instead of waiting on the perfect moment or circumstance?
- ? Application: When the Lord speaks to you, are you willing to obey even if you don't have the full plan? Do you tend to get caught up in asking for more details instead of obeying?

3. The Right Result (Acts 8:36-40)

After Philip asked the Ethiopian what he was reading, the man admitted he needed help understanding what he was reading. Some lost people have never directly rejected Jesus but have never had anyone explain the gospel message. If we are not careful, we will be quick to rush to judgment about others who may desire to hear what we have to say about Jesus. Our responsibility is to go through the doors God opens for us. We are not to judge or make assumptions but to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way.

- ❓ Why is assuming things about others a hindrance to sharing with them? When have you experienced this personally?
- ❓ Why is asking questions a good way to start a conversation? What are some questions you might ask that could lead to gospel conversations?
- ❓ Application: How is God calling you to go to others for the sake of gospel conversations today? How will you respond?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).