

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON **SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE (ACTS 8:26-40)**

DATE **JANUARY 19, 2020**

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?" ³⁷ 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.

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON **SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE (ACTS 8:26-40)**

DATE **JANUARY 19, 2020**

1. In preparation for this week's study questions, read **Isaiah 53:1-12**, and highlight where in Acts 8:26-40 that passage is referenced.
2. In the text above circle the words, "Spirit," and "angel of the Lord."
3. Notice in **Acts 8:26** that it is an angel of the Lord who directs Simon. What exactly is said to him? What isn't yet communicated to him? Why do you think this plan of the Lord's was revealed in stages?
4. There are parallels in **Acts 8:26-40** to Jesus in **Luke 24:13-35**. What are the similarities? Why are they significant? How important is it for you to understand that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament?
5. What part does the Spirit of God play in opening *your* eyes to the Scripture?
6. The order of what happened in the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch is very important. What happened first, next, and last?
7. Have you been baptized yet? What is preventing you from getting baptized?
8. How does the divine-appointment factor in this story encourage you to share the gospel? Take some time to directly pray that God would lead you towards supernatural appointments this week.

Cultural Insight

The Searching Eunuch — A wealthy man (CFO, or minister of finance), in charge of all the treasure of the Queen of Ethiopia, Candace. He had travelled over 2,000 miles to worship at Jerusalem and was likely turned away (Deut. 23:1) because he was a eunuch. He bought a very expensive scroll of Isaiah, probably there in Jerusalem, and was reading it when God sent Philip to share Jesus with him.