

In this story of the Ethiopian eunuch's conversion to faith, we see the first three key values we want our Calvary family to embody: 1) It's all about Jesus; 2) God's people love God's Word; and 3) life change happens in relationships.

SESSION 6

Our Next Steps—Part 1

“...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

—JOHN 14:26

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

—2 TIMOTHY 1:7



ACTS 8:26-40

Read Aloud in Your Group

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopianeunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” [³⁷ Some manuscripts include here *Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*] ³⁸ And he gave

orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



FOR DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION: Who is someone who influenced you to believe in Jesus or grow in Christ?

1. How did Philip demonstrate his readiness and willingness to be used by God?
2. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in this story? Have you ever experienced a nudge from the Spirit to talk with someone about Jesus?
3. What is the role of Scripture when sharing the Good News with people who are curious about faith or Jesus?
4. How do the elements in this conversion story encourage you to influence others toward faith in Jesus?
5. One of Calvary's foundational values is, "it's all about Jesus." What does that principle look like in your life?
 - If not all about Jesus, then what are you tempted to make it about?
 - How do we keep the focus on Jesus in our personal lives?
6. The Eunuch's life was forever changed by his encounter with Philip because Philip spent time and energy explaining Scripture and Jesus to him. Is there anyone in your life who is curious about Jesus that you can invest in?

Pray together for opportunities to speak with that person about Jesus. And if you don't have someone in mind, ask God to bring you people who are open and interested in learning more about Jesus.



CORE VALUES

Part 1

It's all about Jesus

We see a church filled with disciples who are committed to making much of Jesus.

God's people delight in God's Word

We see a church filled with disciples who both know and love the Word of God.

Life change happens in relationship

We see a church filled with disciples who are relentless in their pursuit of God-honoring, life-changing relationships with other believers.

7. Life change happens through relationships. Small groups are focused on building friendships that influence one another toward God and His Kingdom. Share a way that you have allowed this group into your life and how it has helped you to grow in your walk with Jesus.
8. Listen or watch the song "I Speak Jesus." Pray together about how you might "speak Jesus" in various ways to someone this week.



TAKE 5

BUCKLE UP FOR THE ADVENTURE!

Michelle Tumes, Worship Pastor

ACTS 8:26-27

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza”. So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). The man had gone to Jerusalem to worship...”

The beauty of an adventure can be internal, rather than externally enjoying the scenery of a unique journey. In the passage for today, Philip was told by an angel to specifically go to “the desert road.” We can notice this heavenly road sign was followed without hesitation. Perhaps Philip experienced a nervous excitement about what he would encounter as his steps led him further down the road.

Some of us map out our journey with so much regiment that we forget to be open to the direction of a heavenly sign. I personally love the unknown and collect experiences along the path as mile markers on the journey of faith. I know it can appear daunting, but openness and obedience will bring fulfillment and encouragement to keep you traveling on this adventure with Jesus as your comfort and guide.

Sometimes we are prompted to move out of our comfort zone and embrace a completely different paradigm and swap out our lenses for another mindset. The Ethiopians had a revered social standing, but eunuchs were not permitted to engage in the rituals of the temple. Philip was guided toward an individual who was diametrically opposed to himself. However, the commonality was a desire to unite in the beauty of the gospel; to stop on that dusty road and engage in community with the centrality of Christ.

Christ has already mapped your journey and He has great plans for you. I encourage you to embrace His signs and trust that He has an exciting future for you, even if you are led on a detour down a desert road! Along that road, there will be many from all walks of life that we are called to embrace and point to Jesus.



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