

Aug 9, 2026 Acts 8:26–40 — The Glorious Scandal of the Gospel

Small Group Questions

Acts 8 records one of the most surprising encounters in the early Church. At the Spirit's leading, Philip leaves a thriving ministry to meet a single traveller on a lonely desert road. In that encounter we see the scandalous reach of the gospel, God's surprising initiative, and the invitation for God's people to become the kind of community that crosses barriers with the love of Christ.

Read Acts 8:26–40 together.

1. As you read the passage, what strikes you most about God's activity? What is God doing before Philip ever speaks a word?
2. Luke goes out of his way to describe the Ethiopian as both a foreigner and a eunuch. Why do you think those details matter? What barriers would have existed between Philip and this man?
3. Philip obeys two surprising commands from God that make very little sense from a human perspective (vv. 26, 29). What do these moments teach us about listening to and responding to the Spirit?
4. The Ethiopian asks, "What prevents me from being baptized?" (v. 36). Why is that such a powerful question in light of everything that has happened in the story?
5. The sermon suggested that the Spirit forms us to "embody the scandal of the gospel." Where do you think God may be inviting you to cross a barrier in your own life? Is there a person, group, or relationship where the Spirit may be asking you to move toward rather than away?
6. Looking back over the passage, where do you see God's initiating grace at work in your own story? Can you identify people, circumstances, or unexpected events God used to draw you toward himself?

Prayer & Mutual Encouragement

Spend some time praying together.

- Thank God for his initiating grace—for seeking us before we ever sought him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to form in us hearts that cross barriers with the love of Christ.
- Pray for one person each of you senses God may be inviting you to move toward this week.
- Before next week's gathering, encourage one another to take one simple step of obedience—whether beginning a conversation, extending hospitality, offering forgiveness, or following a prompting of the Spirit that aligns with God's Word. At your next meeting, take time to share what happened.