



STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Teaching: *Share Your Story*

Key Scripture: Acts 8:26–36

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Acts 8:4-8, 26-36

Tuesday: Romans 10

Wednesday: Acts 1:1-11

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 3:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 53:7-8, 56:3-5

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

This week, we are concluding our *Rounding the Bases* series: Come, Grow, Serve, Share. In Acts 8:26–40, Philip shows us what it can look like to share our hope with others. Philip listens to the Lord and obeys even when the direction doesn't make sense. He notices the person God has placed in front of him and asks questions. He listens to the Ethiopian eunuch's story and then starts where the man is and leads him to Jesus. The story reminds us that God is already at work in people's lives before we ever enter the conversation, so we don't have to carry the pressure of changing someone. We simply need to be faithful with our part. Jesus has given every believer a calling to hear the Holy Spirit's nudges, ask genuine questions, trust that God is already working, and help people take one step closer to Jesus. Ultimately, sharing our story is not just about having the right words; it's about having a heart that cares about the people God has placed around us. We come, grow, serve, and share because the gospel came to us so that it can now go through us. See *Digging Deeper* for more background information on Acts 8.

Questions: Ice Breaker: What is something small that brought you unexpected joy this week?

1. Read Acts 8:26-36 as a group. What stands out to you about what Philip is asked to do and his response?
2. What are the 4 questions asked in this passage? Why do you think Philip begins with a question instead of just telling the Ethiopian Eunuch what to believe?
3. In Acts 8:27-28, what do we learn about the Ethiopian eunuch? What evidence do you see that he was already searching for God before Philip arrived?
4. What question does the eunuch ask Philip? How does Philip respond? What does this teach us about starting where someone is and then pointing them toward Jesus?
5. Read Acts 1:8. Who does Jesus say will be His witnesses? What does this passage suggest about who is responsible for sharing the good news?

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For

the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6–7. What do Paul's words teach us about our role in helping others come to faith? How might this passage change the pressure we sometimes feel to “get it right” when sharing Jesus?
7. Who is one person God may be inviting you to notice, listen to, encourage, or have a conversation with? What might it look like to help that person take one step closer to Jesus this week? (See Notes)

NOTES | Question 7: Pastor Neal said sharing your story is as simple as this:

- Here's what my life was like before Jesus.
- Here's how I came to Jesus.
- Here's what He's done in me.

DIGGING DEEPER

Philip clearly had a heart for outsiders. We see in Acts 8:4–8 that he was ministering to people in Samaria. Samaritans had been hated by most Jews for centuries, but because of the example of Jesus (John 4; Luke 15), Philip wanted to minister to them as well.

After Acts 8, Philip encounters the Ethiopian Eunuch and then is miraculously transported by the Spirit to Azotus. From there, he continues preaching in the coastal towns until he reaches Caesarea. We meet Philip again in Acts 21, where it appears that he had settled in Caesarea Maritima. He had four unmarried daughters, all of whom had the gift of prophecy.

The Ethiopian Eunuch was a treasurer, probably a man of some wealth, and a Gentile worshiper of the God of Israel. Eunuchs were commonly employed as court officials in the ancient world. The term “eunuch” generally referred to a man who had been castrated, often because he served in a royal court. The law of Israel in Deuteronomy 23:1 excluded eunuchs from certain religious privileges in the temple. (The exclusion in Deuteronomy is most likely because of the corrupt ceremonies of Canaanite religion which practiced castration (Raymond Brown)).

Therefore, when the Eunuch was in Jerusalem, he may not even have been permitted to enter the Court of the Gentiles in the temple. Yet he had the means to own a scroll of Isaiah, which would have been very expensive. In Acts 8, we meet the Ethiopian Eunuch on the road, presumably returning home from Jerusalem and reading the scroll of Isaiah in the Greek translation.

As the Eunuch is reading Isaiah 53, the passage quoted in Acts 8, perhaps he continued reading the scroll and came to Isaiah 56:3–5, which says:

*“Don't let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say,
'The Lord will never let me be part of his people.'
And don't let the eunuchs say,
'I'm a dried-up tree with no children and no future.'”*

*For this is what the Lord says:
I will bless those eunuchs
who keep my Sabbath days holy
and who choose to do what pleases me
and commit their lives to me.
I will give them—within the walls of my house—
a memorial and a name
far greater than sons and daughters could give.
For the name I give them is an everlasting one.
It will never disappear!”*

He would have heard God's heart for foreigners and eunuchs. The very person who may have experienced exclusion from God's people was now hearing God promise that he would be welcomed, remembered, and given an everlasting name.

-some thoughts taken from F.F. Bruce's commentary on Acts of the Apostles, The New International Commentary of the New Testament