

# Beyond Sunday

For groups, friends, families, couples, or individuals to reflect on the message you heard this Sunday, 9/17.

1. Read Acts 8:26-40. Listening plays a huge role in this encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Where does Philip demonstrate what it looks like to listen for God and the nudges of His Spirit? Where does Philip demonstrate listening to the Ethiopian eunuch and responding appropriately with the message of Jesus?
2. Read John 6:44. As you look at what the Ethiopian eunuch had been doing in Jerusalem and what he was reading in his chariot, where can you see signs that God was already working to draw this man to Himself even before Philip met him? What role do you think this kind of divine preparation plays in people coming to faith?
3. Read vv 34-35. Philip began **from the very question** the eunuch had and told the good news of Jesus from that perspective. If the questions someone had were about feeling alone in the world, how might you begin from that point and explain the good news about Jesus? That they felt that God could never love someone like them? That they were going through a crisis bigger than they are?
4. Philip and the eunuch's encounter was a beautiful example of a "divine appointment." A divine appointment is when two people are brought together by God for a holy purpose He has in one life or both. Divine encounters aren't on our calendars when our days begin, but we participate best in them when our spiritual eyes are open for who and what God may bring our way during the day. What helps you be more attentive to divine encounters God may have for you? What role does prayer play?
5. Philip must have held his own plans somewhat loosely if God could redirect his day because of a "holy moment" God wanted him to be a part of. How loosely or tightly do you hold your agenda and schedule for the day? Are you easy or hard for God to interrupt if He's got a holy appointment for you that's not on your schedule?
6. Often times we "plant seeds" in people's journeys toward knowing God better. But in our passage, Philip was there at the time of harvest--the eunuch wanted to receive Christ and be baptized right then and there. Would you know what to do if you happened to be there at the very moment when someone wanted to put their faith in Jesus?

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9.17.17

Love EVERYONE,  
ALWAYS.

## Listen with Care

**God's way of reaching and restoring the world has always been through BLESSING**

I will bless you...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed by you.  
Genesis 12:2

### 5 Ways to Bless Your Neighbor:

**Begin with Prayer | Listen with Care |  
Eat Together | Serve in Love | Share Your Story**

#### 1. Begin with Prayer

## 2. Listen with Care

### **God prepares us to bless people—how have you been prepared?**

What are cultural experiences and personal struggles in your life God will use to bless others?

### **God nudges us to bless people, and prepares people to be blessed by us.**

How is God connecting you and interrupting you to bless others?

### **God wants us to come alongside and be with people—where has God sent you?**

How do you intentionally take the opportunities to deepen relationships with the people in your spheres of connection?

### **Pay attention to people's dreams and pain and listen for evidence of God's work in their lives where God has sent you.**

Look for ways to identify with their pain.

### **Listen to people about God and to God about people.**

Bless people so they can bless others.

How can you encourage people you have blessed to go and do likewise?

### **Who will you “listen with care” to this week?**

#### **OUR SPEAKER TODAY**

Beth Seversen is the Evangelism Team Leader for the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination. Beth served as Associate Pastor at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin and Hillcrest Evangelical Covenant Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. She and her husband Mark are former church planters and worked in campus ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Prior to her present role Beth was Associate Director of the Masters in Evangelism and Leadership and the Masters in Missional Church Movements. She is adjunct faculty at Wheaton College and Graduate School, North Park University and Seminary, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Beth earned her doctorate in Intercultural Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School researching emerging adults and the factors that make churches effective reaching them. Her passion is motivating students to journey with people far from God, helping them take steps toward faith in Jesus. Beth loves infusing Jesus followers with a bigger picture of the gospel and equipping pastors and churches for God's mission to the world.