

Group/Individual Study

Series: Bless Everyone Always

Passages: Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44

REFLECT on the message heard 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 and softening of hearts 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 and agenda 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? If studying this with a group, discuss together what you all think would be best to do at a moment like that.