



NEIGHBORS & NATIONS

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

- What was the most delicious food at your Thanksgiving meal?
- Do you watch football or the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thanksgiving?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor James Savage talked about rejection and acceptance. He opened with a story about his first crush on a girl. He went out on a limb and asked her out - she laughed and emphatically said "NO!" He then told another story about when he had been accepted. Specifically, when he asked his wife to marry him, as well as being accepted into college.

Rejection and acceptance are a part of our lives, and they evoke strong emotions. The same part of the brain is activated when you experience physical pain as when you experience rejection.

1. Describe a time you felt rejected.
2. Describe a time you felt accepted.

Read Acts 8:26-30

Philip comes across an Ethiopian eunuch reading a passage from Isaiah. The eunuch goes on to ask "What stands in the way of me being baptized?" This shows the fear of rejection this Ethiopian has been carrying for so long. From the outside, this man seemed to have it all. He worked beside royals and had great wealth. Below the surface, we can see that the man had lived in constant rejection while serving others. He followed Jesus' ministry for three years and saw Jesus show radical acceptance. For a man who had only experienced rejection in his life, he was longing to be accepted. Philip goes on to show him there was nothing in the way of his baptism.

If you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, and in your baptism, you celebrate that God is no longer relegated to a far-off temple, but instead resides in your heart.

3. In your life, were you ever worried about coming to know Jesus for fear of rejection?
4. How has your life changed when you finally felt the acceptance and the love of Jesus?

After being baptized, the eunuch finally felt acceptance from the Father after a lifetime of rejection. I can't imagine the weight that was lifted off of him at that moment! The passage ends with saying that the Ethiopian left rejoicing! This man's life was forever changed because of Philip's boldness to share the truth of the Gospel, but it did not stop there. Historians have studied this Ethiopian man and believe he was named Simeon Bachos, and that he went on to become the first missionary in Africa. Now, 700 million Africans know the same good news that Philip shared with him in the chariot!

5. Is there a time when someone was bold and went out of their comfort zone to share the truth of the Gospel with you?
6. Is there a time when you were bold in your faith, even when it seemed scary?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for your goodness. Thank you for accepting us, just as we are, but also calling us higher. Let us be bold this week, not in ourselves, but in the truth of your word. Let us be like Philip, and help us to remember fear is not of the Lord. 2 Timothy says, "For the Lord did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control." We love and worship you Jesus, we ask these things in your name. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Find a way to be bold in your faith this week. Someone that you will cross paths with this week is waiting to hear the truth of the Gospel and feel the acceptance of the Father!
- We want to resource, you, your family and/or your group with Advent resources. Advent starts on December 3, so be sure to check out those resources this week here: crosspoint.tv/advent
- Christmas at Cross Point service times have been announced! Head to crosspoint.tv/christmas starting November 27 to check them out for your campus.