Acts 8:26-40 | August 16, 2026

God pursues the one, and He invites ordinary people to take the next step in joining Him.

Acts 8 reminds us that God sees people others may overlook. He goes out of His way to pursue the one who feels far from Him, excluded or forgotten. At the same time, He invites ordinary followers of Jesus like Philip to listen to the Spirit, take the next step and make themselves available to what God is already doing.

START HERE

Opening Question

Have you ever had a moment when you realized something you thought was a coincidence may have actually been God at work? What happened?

Share your story, then transition into the passage by pointing out that Philip didn't know the whole plan. He simply knew the next step.

LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Together

Acts 8:26-40

As you read, pay attention to the different ways God leads Philip and the way Philip responds.

Talk About It

1. What stands out to you most about Philip's story? Why?

2. In verse 26, Philip is told to leave a successful ministry in Samaria and go toward a desert road. What do you think Philip knew at this point? What didn't he know?

The manuscript emphasizes that Philip knew where to go but didn't know why, who he would meet or what he would say. Faith wasn't having all the answers. It was trusting God enough to take the next step.

3. Where do you find yourself wanting God to give you the whole plan before you're willing to take the next step?

That next step might be toward obedience, forgiveness, healing, serving someone, sharing Jesus, generosity, growth or recovery.

GOD PURSUES THE ONE

The Ethiopian eunuch had power, wealth and influence, yet underneath his outward success was a deeper question: **“Where do I belong? Is there a place for me? Do you see me, God? Do I matter?”**

Philip's encounter with him reveals that God wasn't distant from this man's story. God had been pursuing him all along.

Discuss

4. What do you think the eunuch may have been feeling as he traveled home from Jerusalem?

5. Why is it significant that God sent Philip to one person when there were crowds of people who needed to hear about Jesus?

The sermon repeatedly comes back to the idea that God does things **“for the one.”** He moved Philip from a successful ministry to a desert road, timed the encounter and put Isaiah in the eunuch's hands.

6. Who is someone in your life who might need to know that God sees them, loves them and has not forgotten them?

Take a moment to name that person privately if needed.

LISTEN BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Philip doesn't run up to the eunuch and immediately start preaching. He gets close enough to hear what he's reading, asks a question and listens.

The sermon describes evangelism as **“picking up on the conversation God is already having with people.”**

Discuss

7. Why can listening be such an important part of sharing Jesus with someone?

8. What could it look like to get close enough to someone to hear their heart instead of immediately trying to fix, convince or correct them?

Think about your conversations this week. Are you listening for what God may already be doing in someone's life?

ON MISSION OR THE MISSION

The sermon gives us two categories for normal Christianity: **You are either on mission or you are the mission.** Either you're like the Ethiopian, being pursued and found by God, or you're like Philip, joining God in pursuing someone else.

Discuss

9. Which side of that statement feels more relevant to you right now: being found or joining in the finding? Why?

10. What is one place, relationship or conversation where you sense God may be inviting you to take a next step?

Don't overcomplicate it. Philip didn't receive the whole plan. He received the next step.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

The eunuch asks, **"What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"**

The sermon points out that pride, fear, shame, insecurity and concern about what others think can all stand in the way. But the question isn't, **"Am I ready enough?"** The question is whether Jesus has become Lord of your life.

The bigger picture is that this man thought he was traveling to find God. Instead, he discovered **God was seeking him.**

1. **What are you tempted to believe about yourself that makes you wonder whether God really sees you, wants you or could use you?**
2. **What would change if you genuinely believed God was pursuing you and inviting you into His mission?**

ONE NEXT STEP

This week, choose **one person** and **one next step.**

One Person

Who is one person you believe God may be inviting you to notice, pursue or listen to?

One Next Step

What is one simple action you can take?

- Start a conversation
- Ask a meaningful question
- Listen to someone's story
- Offer practical help
- Invite someone to coffee
- Share something God has been teaching you
- Pray for the person
- Invite them into community

Don't wait until you have the whole plan.

Take the next step.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite the group to pray through these three requests:

- **“God, help me recognize the people You are already pursuing.”**
- **“Give me the courage to take my next step of obedience even when I don't have the whole plan.”**
- **“Give me a heart for the one, especially the people I might normally overlook.”**

Close by reminding the group:

You are the one Jesus came for. You are the one He loves. You are the one He is pursuing. And if you've been found, He invites you to join Him in finding others.