

INTRO

- If you could learn any language in an instant, which would it be and why?
- Do you have any favorite miracle stories in the Bible?

READ

Read Acts 8:26-40

REFLECT

In this striking passage we see how the Spirit and the Word of God work together to bring the knowledge of Christ to a man in the unlikeliest of encounters and, through him, to a new people at the 'ends of the earth'.

1. The work of the Spirit

All throughout the book of Acts we see the Spirit moving in and through the early church, working miracles and wonders, and guiding the apostles and evangelists to be where they needed to be and to do the works that God prepared for them.

It is an important reminder that we are not working alone and that the church is not our own doing. As we live and work for God, we must always work in partnership with him. It is by being attentive and obedient to his voice that we grow the church.

Qu: How often do you seek God's guidance in your life for big and small matters?

Qu: How can we as a church grow in our attentiveness and obedience to God's initiative?

2. The work of the Word

What Philip asks the Eunuch we should be asking ourselves every time we approach the word of God: do we understand what we read? For the word of God to work, it must first be understood, and as much as reading the Bible takes discipline and habit, we should never be content with

reading just for the sake of reading. Instead, like the Eunuch, we should always seek a greater understanding of the word.

Qu: How often do you read the Bible, and how often do you feel like you didn't understand what you read?

Qu: What people and resources have you sought out to learn more about the Bible, and which would you recommend to others?

3. The work of Christ

Both the Spirit and the Word worked together so that the Eunuch would learn about what Christ did for him. Very close to the passage he was reading was another one, where God promised the faithful foreigner and eunuch an everlasting name and a place in His house. That promise was not for a distant future, but began to take place right there, near the desert, as the Eunuch was admitted to God's family. This is a great reminder that Christ was, and still is, at the centre of it all.

Qu: Is being a son or daughter of God something that constantly informs you how to live your life? To what extent has your commitment to Christ transformed your everyday living?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying for one another and those you know who need to hear the good news of salvation.