

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE

These questions are for the **February 18, 2018** sermon, "Good News in the Desert." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 8:26-40) together out loud.

### SERMON OUTLINE

1. Can God really accept anyone?
  - a. Consider this Ethiopian Eunuch:
    - i. He is a nameless, God-fearer.
    - ii. But his flesh is mutilated and he is excluded (for life) from worshiping in the temple (Deuteronomy 23:1).
    - iii. He was "unfit," a "monstrosity," & "worthless." Marginalized & rejected.
  - b. Yet this Ethiopian Eunuch . . .
    - i. Desired the Lord and went to worship him.
    - ii. Studied the Scriptures and asked for coaching to understand him more.
    - iii. Wanted to be baptized.
  - c. Do not underestimate how the grace of God can reach and embrace those who seem furthest from him. Including you.
    - i. God accepts outsiders and eunuchs (Isaiah 56:3 and following)
    - ii. God is for all nations! His plan included us from the beginning.
    - iii. There is no one who has gone too far that God's grace cannot reach them.
2. Can God really use anyone?
  - a. Consider the Ethiopian Eunuch:
    - i. He had baggage and was "damaged goods."
    - ii. Yet he was chosen of God to be the first missionary to Gentiles and Africa!
  - b. How unlikely are you for significant service?
    - i. Do not underestimate how the grace of God is at work to use you to reach those who seem furthest away from God.
    - ii. 1 Corinthians 12:22

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How do relate to the Ethiopian Eunuch? Do you sometimes feel "permanently damaged"? Or "unfit for life"? How are you pursuing God despite those feelings? Reflect on this: "Do not underestimate how the grace of God can reach and embrace those who seem furthest from him. Including you."
2. Based on #2, above: Do you sometimes feel that your gifts or skills or past puts you in the position of "second class"? God chose to take this man who was living with permanent consequences and effects on his body to be the one who would first take the message of Jesus to the Gentiles, and to Africa. How might God be using your consequences (or diagnoses) to OPEN the door for the gospel to go to new places with power (through you!)?? How can we pray for you?