

**Acts 8:26–40**

**Obedience & Baptism**

**Getting Started: Celebrating Baptism**

1. Who had an opportunity to witness one of the baptisms this weekend? What was encouraging to you about the experience? Was there anything from the testimonies that particularly stood out to you?
2. Have you ever walked alongside someone who was in the process of deciding to get baptized or discovering Jesus? What was that journey like? What do you remember most about their experience? Who is someone in your life that you hope will one day discover Jesus?

**Read Acts 8:26–40**

3. What stands out to you about Philip in this story? What do you find most inspiring about his faith and obedience?
4. Philip had already demonstrated a willingness to serve God in different ways before this encounter. What do you notice about his progression and willingness to simply go wherever God leads him? What does Philip's example teach us about being available to God?
5. Acts 7:51 says that people can “always resist the Holy Spirit.” What are some ways we might resist, ignore, or miss the Spirit's leading in everyday life?

What opportunities to participate in God's work might we miss because we're too comfortable, distracted, busy, or focused on our own plans?

6. Imagine this story if Philip had developed a pattern of spiritual idleness rather than obedience. What might have been different?

Have you experienced seasons when you were especially attentive and responsive to God—and other seasons when you were spiritually passive? What was different about those seasons?

7. What stands out to you about the Ethiopian eunuch? What do you notice about his attitude toward God, his desire to understand Scripture, and his response when Philip explains the gospel?

What do you find most inspiring about his response?

8. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53 when Philip encountered him. Why do you think God might have prepared this particular moment so specifically? What does this story teach us about how God can prepare someone's heart and bring people together at just the right time?

Have you ever experienced a conversation or opportunity that seemed too perfectly timed to be coincidence?

**Going Deeper: The Practice of Obedience**

9. When you hear the word *obedience*, do you tend to think more about avoiding what we're not supposed to do or actively responding to what God is calling us to do?

How might seeing obedience as an active response change the way we approach following Jesus?

**10.** Last week, Charles shared from 1 Thessalonians 5 about the need to warn those who are idle. Why is spiritual idleness dangerous?

What makes spiritual idleness so easy to slip into? What are some things that can slowly make passivity feel normal or even comfortable?

**11.** Consider David's story with Bathsheba. How did David's idleness create an opportunity for temptation and sin? What can his story teach us about the dangers of becoming spiritually passive?

### **Bringing It Home**

**12.** If you became more attentive and responsive to the Holy Spirit this week, what might look different in your everyday life?

What is one next faithful step of obedience God may be calling you to take?