

Title: The Eunuch and You // **Scripture:** Acts 8:26-40

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

Hopelessness, despair, and desperation have plagued our human lives ever since Adam and Eve mortgaged Eden for a bitter bite of fruit. But in the second half of Acts 8, we find another famous author, Isaiah, who reminds us that there is One who has tasted the same bitter fruit and, by the power of his own sacrifice, undone its darkening power. This is really Good News for each one of us!

As we examine the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, the question that seems to arise is: "Am I enough?" This is a key question that we are constantly being confronted with every day: "Am I doing ... being ... saying ... resting ... enough?" In this amazing story, we find the answer for how we can move from an uncertain future and hopeless desperation to "Living God" with clarity of direction and identity that fill us with confidence in the goodness of God. The Good News is that Jesus has come to give us clear guidance and hope, as he restores and heals our brokenness and despair. With Jesus, you can become "more than enough!"

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Certainty about our direction and identity comes from the Biblical conformity and community affirmation that lead us to a personal encounter with Jesus - the unchanging Good News.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): How does Philip demonstrate what it looks like to hear from God and act on the direction that he is hearing? How does his working knowledge of the Word of God help Philip lead the conversation with the Ethiopian to Jesus? What is the result of the Ethiopian's encounter with Jesus?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): Am I listening well to the guidance and direction of God? Am I depending on the truth of God's Word and conforming to the heart of God? Am I seeking wisdom and affirmation about what I am hearing from God through interaction with a trustworthy community of followers of Jesus?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): In my daily life, where am I meeting People of Peace, who are seeking answers about God? Am I listening to the questions of the people I encounter? Am I directing those conversations to the Good News of Jesus? How can I practice that this week?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Exercise – Hearing from God *5 minutes*

Set a timer and be silent before God for a full minute! Simply ask God to show you how he wants you to respond to the truth that he is enough - then be still and listen. When time is up, share what God is impressing in your heart. Is there a direction he is inviting you to go? Is there an action he is inviting you to take?

Change IN // Group Activity – Practice the Heart of God *5 minutes*

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to describe the heart of God in three sentences or less. Give everyone a full minute to choose their words! Then go around the room and take turns sharing your summary - everyone should make an attempt! Evaluate the outcome. Do you need to improve your knowledge about of God's heart and His Word? (Listen to Buddy Hoffman teach the One Story, the Big Picture of the Bible, at <http://gfc.tv/snellville/2012/01/one-story-introduction>).

Change OUT // Life Application Assignment – Practice Sharing the Hope of Jesus *5 minutes*

Think back through the last few weeks of Halloween activities. Ask God to bring to mind the People of Peace you have met during those experiences. Share the next step that God is inviting you to take this week with those People of Peace. Go OUT with certainty as you share the hope of the Good News of Jesus with them.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.