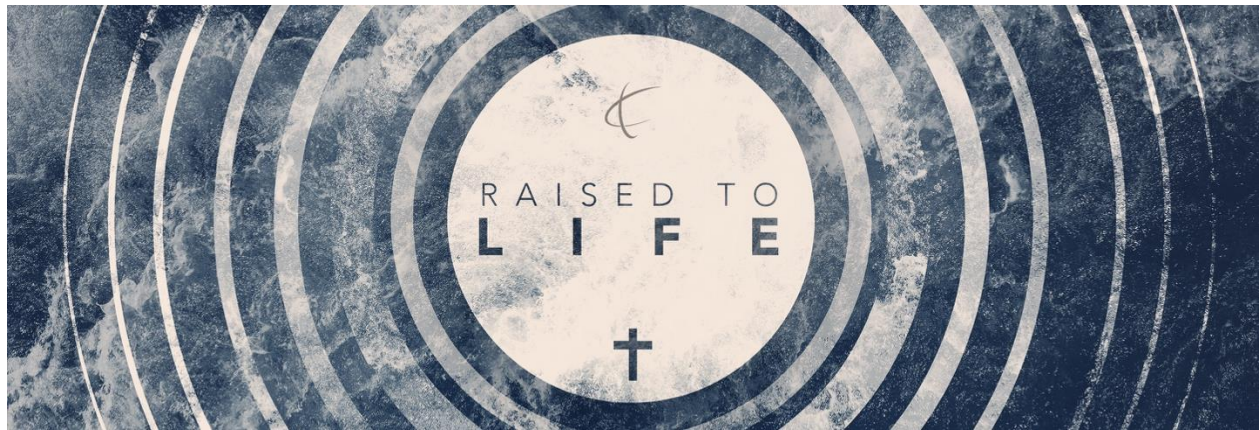


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Baptism Celebration*

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. – Acts 8:36-38 (NIV)

Philip is instructed by an angel of the Lord to travel a desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza. While traveling he encounters an Ethiopian eunuch who was reading aloud from the prophet Isaiah (chapter 53:7-8). Through the Spirit's guidance Philip teaches the eunuch about Jesus, the suffering servant in whom Isaiah prophesies.

This Ethiopian man had already been to Jerusalem to worship God. His pilgrimage path had now led him to Jesus. He believed in Jesus the Son of God with all his heart and upon coming to water he requested to be baptized. Philip obliged the eunuch's request and baptized him into Christ.

We see two people obeying the will of God for their lives. Philip and the Ethiopian man. Philip went out of his way to witness Jesus to a stranger. And the Ethiopian man gave his life to Jesus who had went out of his way to save his people from their sins, offering forgiveness to all who believe.

Discussion

1. Read Acts 8:26-40. Share your baptism story with your group. How is yours similar to the story of Philip and the Ethiopian man? How is it different?
2. Describe how Philip and the Ethiopian man choose to trust God in this story. How does this help us to understand faith as being active and not passive?
3. Why do you think the Ethiopian man suggested to be baptized? What role do you think Philip played in his request?
4. Who do you most identify with in the story, Philip or the Ethiopian man? How can you choose to be more like Philip? How can you choose to be more like the Ethiopian man?
5. Why do you think the Ethiopian wanted to be baptized so quickly? What can we learn from this? What is something that you need to do quickly for God that maybe you've been putting off?

Application

6. History tells us that the Ethiopian man became a missionary to his home country. Both Philip and the Ethiopian were led by the Spirit to obey God. How can you choose to follow the Spirit's leading?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you need to be baptized? How can you help someone to better understand who Jesus is this week?

7. How can you better celebrate people who take a step of faith for Jesus and the person who helped guide them to take their next step? Is there something your group can celebrate together?

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