

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. We hope you are well and discovering new ways to relate to God and His Word.*

## **"HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE LIVE ON MISSION"**

**ACTS 8:26-40**

**PASTOR BRIAN**

### **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

What is the most "un-ordinary" thing you own or do?

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### **"Lead People with a God Centered Love" - Verses 26-27**

What are challenges to showing people love in our diverse culture today?

### **"Be Led by the Spirit" - Verse 28-29**

What are ways we see truth from God in people's lives?

### **"Lead People to Jesus with the Bible" - Verses 30-40**

What are ways you've seen the Bible make an impact on you or someone else?

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### **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Pastor Brian challenged the people with the idea that we need to "show up and open up" when it comes to sharing the Gospel with God's word. Lately, how open have you been to sharing about Jesus to others?

## How Ordinary People Live on Mission

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. We are so glad to see you. *We have a wide range of perspectives on this virus, let's love and honor all of those around us. There is no need to judge others who do not think exactly like you. Different churches have different convictions & different interpretations on these requirements. Right now these are our requirements. They will change. We pray soon. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for coming.*
- B. Slide2 Food Drive - June 8th.
- C. Slide3 Zoomin Thru June - begins June 7. Sign up.
- D. Prayer: God we desire to Love You Completely. Love all people authentically. And make disciples globally.

### II. Slide4 Intro: How Ordinary People Live on Mission

- A. God continues to show that His mission is to all people.
  - 1. So far Luke has showed us God's heart in his story by loving & saving: 1st Jews. Then Hellenistic Jews (Gk speaking). Then Samaritans (multi-racial, 1/2 Jewish/ 3/4 heretics). And now by loving, accepting & saving a very **ethnically distant, sociologically distinct, racially different & religiously disenfranchised...Ethiopian eunuch**. Which shows, God's concern & mission is for **all people**.
- B. When we understand mission as *an assigned task given to a person or group to carry out*, and when we are *willing to accept God's mission as our mission*, is when our lives are **on mission**.
- C. Slide5 Map - 5 places/*clicks*, Jerusalem, Gaza, Azotus, Caesarea. biblical Ethiopia.
- D. Read Story

### III. Slide6a LOVE PEOPLE WITH A GOD CENTERED LOVE

- A. After Philips **public** ministry in Samaria, we now have his **private** ministry in Gaza

1. From ministering to **multitudes** (vs.6,7), **now the gospel to one.**

B. **Ethiopian** - means **black**. I don't think it is *coincidence* then that Luke places here in our text today, *God's undeniable, providential, determined, resolute love for a black man, in the middle of what our nation is going through, regarding George Floyd.*

1. **Slide6b** Read the *Christianity Today* article on **George Floyd**. *"Most of the country knows him from a few minutes of cell phone footage captured during his final hours. But in Houston's Third Ward, they know Floyd for how he lived for decades—a mentor to a generation of young men and a "person of peace" ushering ministries into the area."*

a) What happened to **George Floyd** was a *despicable murder*, such an *injustice*. Sad how deep **racism** is still entrenched in our culture.

2. **Slide6c** Months ago I read **Miles McPherson's** book *The Third Option* (hope for a racially divided nation). Miles is the pastor of Rock Church down in SD. Comes from an interesting perspective being that he is *multiracial*. And his father was a police officer, and now his son is.

a) Instead of choosing a side of, *us vs them, cop vs protester, blacks vs whites*, there is a **3rd option**. One that *brings people together, mends relationships, and promotes genuine peace in communities*. The 3rd option is *"honoring the priceless value of God's image in every person we meet."* (a must read)

3. See, **racism, prejudices** (advance judgment) and **bigotry** are extremely strong forces because they're based on **human fears**. But there's a stronger force, that force is **the love of God through us!**

C. We also learn regarding *this African man* that he was a *eunuch*.

D. **Eunuch** - Watched over the king's harem. Was he **celibate** or **impotent**, *doesn't really matter*. They guarded influential women.

1. **Candace**, not a proper name, but a dynasty of Ethiopian Queens.

a) **Ps**: The monarchy of Ethiopia claims to trace its genealogy from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba (1 Kg 10).

2. What we know is that in Deut.23:1 *he was not allowed to enter the assembly of the Lord*, there in Jerusalem.

a) Here's a man searching for God. He can't find it in *Judaism* because he has *this strike against him*.

3. *But* know this, *Isaiah* not only talks a lot about *Messiah*, *but* gives *great hope* to Eunuch's :)

a) *Slide7a* Is.56:4,5 *For this is what the Lord says: I will bless those eunuchs who keep my Sabbath days holy and who choose to do what pleases me and commit their lives to me. 5 I will give them - within the walls of my house - a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give. For the name I give them is an everlasting one. It will never disappear!*

E. God is desiring to pour out His love upon *new Ethiopians*.

1. *Slide7b* He is still *love hungry* for the *ethnically distant, sociologically distinct, racially different & religiously disenfranchised*.

F. Love People With a God Centered Love!

#### IV. *Slide8a* **BE LED BY THE SPIRIT** *all Acts is about this*

A. Philip wasn't the *radical*...the *HS* was.

B. The *Holy Spirit* is the Lord of the Harvest, *and* it's through **Him** that we have *the power to witness* (Acts 1:8).

1. *Slide8b* The Spirit opened **the way** for Philip to come to the man.
2. The Spirit opened **the Scriptures** to the seeking sinner.
3. The Spirit opened **the sinner's heart** to the Savior.

C. My *movie* of this looks like: *Liam Neeson* as *Philip*. He rolls up next to *a black Suburban Motorcade*, *&* jumps in the limo of *Denzel Washington*, ends up *baptizing* him, with *Condoleezza Rice* in the background as *the Queen*.

D. *Rejoicing* - the treasurer went on his way *rejoicing* (*like vs.8 Samaritans*).

1. *Distanced from Jerusalem, never to return again, although accompanied by Christ*. Joy is one of the evidences of *true conversion*.

## E. Be Led By The Spirit!

### V. Slide9a LEAD PEOPLE TO JESUS WITH THE BIBLE

A. You must understand the Bible. Note it's not a *canned presentation* here.

*Studying the bible is evangelism training.*

1. Many Christians carry *a few puzzle-pieces of scripture* in their pocket, *but* don't know *the whole story*.

B. Note in our story there's *4 questions*: 1 by Philip, 3 by the eunuch.

1. You don't always have to *know everything*. You don't have to be **Google for God**. Just ask questions. *What are you reading? Great question for today.*
2. Slide9b Half the of job of evangelism is, *he showed up*. The other half is that *he opened up*.

C. Slide9c God has giving us 2 gifts: 1st *the scriptures*. 2nd *teachers* to *open up, explain, expound and apply the Scriptures*.

1. Look at God's *providence in the Ethiopian's life*. 1st enabling him to obtain a copy of the **Isaiah** scroll *and then* sending Phillip to **teach** him out of it.

D.(31) *How can I* (understand), *unless someone guides me* -

1. My purpose for doing what I do on Sun mornings & Wed nights.
2. Neh.8:8 *They read from the Book of the Law of God* (observation/say) *and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read* (interpretation/mean), *helping the people understand each passage* (application/do).

E. **Philip** - *1st* a deacon in the early church. *Then* Preached in Samaria with great success (*1st missionary*). *Now* leads an Ethiopian to Christ (sending Christianity to a heathen country). *Then* preached city to city for a 30 mile stretch up the Mediterranean, from Azotus to Caesarea.

1. What we need is a church full of Philip's. ***I am Philip*** (reg person, *on mission*)

2. This is **Philip's** story, *how will your story read?* You're writing a chapter today. [It's more like a **BLOG**...a running online-diary]

- a) If you think, *Life is boring*. Understand, *Life is Exciting*...its just *your story* that's boring :)
- b) *Your life can be a page turner*. It can have a **Gripping Plot**, be an **Adventure** story, a **Thriller**, a **Whodunit**.
- c) It all starts with vs.27 *so he arose & went*. (*obedient* to God's bidding)

F. What a great illustration of the great commission.

- 1. *Go to all the nations*, here we have *the ends of the earth*.
- 2. *Baptize them*, here we see a *baptism*. [proved his faith by baptism]
- 3. *Teach them*, here we have *teaching*.
- 4. *For I am with you always*, we have *the Spirit of God* leading Philip.

G. *Slide10* How do ordinary people live on mission?

- 1. *Love People With a God Centered Love. Be Led By The Spirit. and Lead People To Jesus With The Bible.*

H. *Prayer*: May our prayer be each morning, *WHO do you have for me to talk to today?*