

SERMON GUIDE

THE ONES THAT WOULD NEVER BE INTERESTED

Acts 8:26-40

Pastor | Tim Porter

September 15, 2024

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

Scripture that stands out to you while you read

Observations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you

Application that connect the verses to your real life and relationships

Prayer that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Conversation Questions

Getting to Know Me: Ever been in a relationship with someone that you thought would never be interested in spiritual things and been surprised to discover that they were?

Note About the Passage: An Ethiopian eunuch would have faced many barriers to fellowship in a Jewish community. First, his ethnicity would have been an issue. Second, the law forbade eunuchs from entering the worshipping community (Dt. 23:1). There would have been other things about the man in our story that could have gotten in the way too: He was a high-ranking official in a foreign court. The fact that he was "seated" in his chariot means that someone else was driving. He probably travelled with an armed guard. There were a lot of things about this man that would have indicated, "He's not interested."

Read Acts 8:26-40

- S** What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** What do you notice about the Ethiopian eunuch? What stands out to you? Is he a "typical" candidate for evangelism? Why or why not?
- O** What do you think Philip was thinking and feeling in verse 29? How would you have responded?
- O** Describe the activity of God in this story. What does he do? What is God like in this story? What do we learn about God's role in the mission of the church?
 - Why do you think remembering the character and activity of God would be so important for churches who long to reach people with the gospel?
- A** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** One of the things we learn in this story is that God can reach anyone, anywhere. Is there anyone that you have been dismissing as "not interested" that God is bringing to mind right now? What is he asking you to do this week?
- A** In the sermon, Pastor Porter introduced us to an acronym: FRANCES – Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, Coworkers, Enemies, Strangers. In the coming month we're going to commit to asking for God's mercy in the lives of these people, and for opportunity to introduce them to Jesus. Do any names come immediately to mind?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.