



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 1

We thought we knew what normal was. It was predictable. It was familiar...but then life happened! School went online. We lost our job. A loved one got sick. The season was cancelled. Toilet paper became a scarce resource. *Social distancing* became an everyday expression. Who would have guessed that a virus would unleash these kinds of disruptions?! We all know what it's like when *our new normal is not what we knew before*.

As we launch HomeGroups, we're acknowledging how abnormal this season is. Some things haven't changed, though. The Church has always been about the people of God rather than a building or a street address. That is unchanged today. The Church has always gathered for Word-centered worship of God. That too is unchanged. Our circumstances may shift, but the unchanging Spirit of God is always at work to advance the unstoppable mission of God. We're reminded of this as we open back up to the pages of Acts.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 8:26-40 and Isaiah 53

CONNECT

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 being no change and 10 being epic change), how different is your life now from what it was before COVID struck? Give one example to illustrate.
2. What's one change due to COVID that has been positive for you?

LEARN

3. Read the passage from Acts. Where do we see God directing the circumstances to bring about Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch?
4. Eunuchs were restricted in their worship of God and this eunuch belonged to a foreign land well outside Israel. We might think he was disqualified from knowing God, but what does this passage demonstrate about the scope of God's salvation?
5. It's not surprising that a foreigner from far away would have questions about the Book of Isaiah! How is the eunuch's confusion and curiosity an opportunity for Philip to explain the gospel?

6. Where in the passage do we see Philip exhibit faith in God in spite of uncertainty about the outcome?

APPLY

7. COVID may be making life feel unpredictable or even out-of-control. What can we learn from Philip's example of trusting God and obeying even when the outcome was difficult to predict?

What would it look like for you for you to display that same kind of trust and obedience?

8. Philip was ready to share the gospel message by first explaining the meaning of Isaiah 53:7-8. How confident are you in being able to answer others' questions about God's Word? What can you do to become better prepared?

9. God was actively at work behind the scenes in both the Ethiopian eunuch's life and in Philip's "over here" to bring about the eunuch's salvation as he travelled back "over there" to his foreign land.

How do you think God might be at work "over here" in this season for a purpose that extends "over there" after this season ends and we're back together?

10. What else stood out to you about the sermon? Was something especially significant, inspiring, confusing, or challenging?