

Small Group Notes.22.4.18

Reading: *Acts 8:26 to end.*

Welcome: In the past have you visited a church where you felt welcome, or not?

Sermon Outline.

1. The story relates how an Ethiopian eunuch was travelling home having visited the temple but he was struggling to understand the scriptures.
2. This eunuch was both an official and a slave. As such he had the status to visit the temple which would have been a new experience. Would he have known what to do? Would he have been welcome? Such parallels can be drawn with new comers visiting our church.
3. Philip could have said no to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Do we respond when the Spirit moves us?
4. Whilst pondering the scriptures in the chariot, the eunuch says it does not make sense. He is longing for God to be in his life. Similarly can we also explain our story to a newcomer?
5. Whilst the C of E has its own systems, God has his own timing. We need to be sensitive to this in our relationships with others.
6. Katie gave an example of different children requesting baptism and the need to know when someone is ready. We need to know when people are ready to respond.
7. Therefore:
 - a) Genuinely welcome people
 - b) Tell your story
 - c) Allow yourself to be moved by the Spirit and take action.

Questions of Application

1. Reading the Bible passage, is there anything that has struck you anew?
2. What have you done over the years to try to understand the scriptures?
3. How can you help others to do this?
4. Do we respond when the Spirit moves us? (Can you think of the last time?)
5. Can we neatly summarise an appropriate part of our own testimony to share with someone (Possible examples)