

## Small Group Notes – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Theme:** the Great Commission

**Readings:** Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 8: 26-40

### Sermon Outline

Read the two Bible passages.

Jesus' command, to the first apostles and to the church in each generation is: "Go, and make disciples of all nations" – but how do we do it? (Top tips to make evangelism less scary.)

- Ask questions. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Asking open questions is the way to get to know people where they are.
- Build bridges, don't burn bridges. Don't make assumptions about who is ready to receive God's message. The eunuch was an outsider, a foreigner, not allowed into the inner temple courts. (The story about the bishop invited to meet the group in a gay bar.)
- It's by invitation – both ways. The eunuch invited Philip into the chariot – be ready to respond to other people's invitations.
- It's all about Jesus (not necessarily the Church, not necessarily us!)
- Expect the unexpected from the unlikely – and see change in people's lives. Don't be restricted by your pre-conceived ideas.
- The Holy Spirit directs and leads – it's not all down to you!

### Questions of Application

- 1) Could there be someone you see each week who is waiting for an invitation, as in the video clip we saw?
- 2) Can you find a way to open yourself up to someone this week, to allow them to talk to you about their concerns or ask you about something they really want to know?
- 3) Are you ready to respond to an invitation from someone who you wouldn't normally feel you had much in common with?
- 4) How can you let the Holy Spirit lead you in directions that you might not expect or even want to go?