# THE PLACE OF BAPTISM

ACTS 8:26-40 / SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE Church

BIG IDEA

**Baptism is a personal response to the gospel, a public profession of allegiance to Jesus, and a powerful picture of being united with Christ in his death and resurrection.**

READ TOGETHER

**Acts 8:26-40 | Notice how the good news of Jesus leads naturally and immediately to baptism.**

## INTO THE SERMON

LOOK BACK AT SUNDAY

1. What idea, phrase, or illustration from Sunday's sermon stayed with you most? What made it memorable?

2. Pastor Sam described baptism as personal, public, and powerful. Which part of that framework helped clarify the meaning of baptism most?

## INTO THE TEXT

OPEN ACTS 8

1. Read verses 26-31. How does God bring Philip and the Ethiopian official together? What does their exchange teach about Scripture, guidance, and life in the church?

2. Read verses 32-35. What passage was the official reading? How did Philip use that Scripture to tell him the good news about Jesus?

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## INTO THE TEXT

PERSONAL, PUBLIC, POWERFUL

3 Read verses 36-38. What question does the official ask, and how does he respond? What does the immediacy of his baptism reveal about faith and obedience?

4 Read Romans 6:3-4. What does baptism picture about our union with Christ? How do death, burial, and resurrection shape the meaning of this act?

## APPLICATION

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1 Why is baptism an expression of grace already received rather than a way to earn grace? How does that distinction shape the way we understand baptism?

2 Pastor Sam asked, 'What prevents me from being baptized?' What questions or practical obstacles commonly delay baptism, and how can the church help someone take the next step?

## THIS WEEK

CHOOSE ONE

- Read Acts 8:26-40 again and summarize the connection between the gospel and baptism.
- If you trust Jesus and have not been baptized as a believer, tell a leader or contact Coastlands.
- Encourage and pray for someone who is preparing to be baptized.
- Write one sentence explaining why baptism is a response to grace, not a way to earn it.

MEMORY VERSE / ACTS 8:36

**"See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"**