

# Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

## w/c 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

### Acting it out – Baptism Acts 8: 26 – 40

#### Background

This teaching series will direct out attention to Jesus call to be his disciples, together on mission. The church is the outworking of the events of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. One of the key themes of the book of Acts is how the people God are to 'live under the rule of Jesus, between covenant fulfilment and cosmic renewal. The gift of the spirit makes us living examples of the former (covenant fulfilment) and signposts to the latter (cosmic renewal). Welcome to the Missionary church' (The Challenge of Acts, Tom Wright).

In our earlier series through Mark, 'Who is this man?' we've seen the answer that Jesus is the Messiah, God's anointed king. He becomes king through his death and resurrection, turning the world upside. In Acts. Luke describes what happens next. How we are to act this out. Jesus sends out his people to be messengers and signposts, so that others may come into this kingdom and enjoy restoration and reconciliation.

Through these studies we will focus on how the people of God, as a spirit filled community in Christ, are to live out this vocation.

This study follows the sermon on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026. If you weren't able to be at the service, you can watch on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/belmontexeter>) or listen on the Belmont website (<http://belmontexeter.church/talks>)

The discussion outline below is a guide only. Please take time to pray and prepare the discussion for your group. Some resources you may find helpful to supplement these notes are:

Tom Wright, *Acts for Everyone*

Tom Wright, *The Challenge of Acts*

John Stott, *The Message of Acts* (BST)

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-acts/>

**BIG IDEA:** The word of God provides answers to the questions of our heart and transforms our futures when we turn and follow the Lord Jesus.

**WAY IN:** What are you reading, watching or listening to? What themes and questions might be opportunities for engagement with others?

Pray

READ: Acts 8 v 26 - 40

## DIG IN

In Acts 8, we see a move forward in the expanding work of the church. (We're doing this study out of sequence since it clearly has links with baptism Sunday).

What actions and attitudes do we see in Philip in this encounter with the Ethiopian Finance minister?

What is it about the Finance Minister that Luke wants us to note and that makes this story unusual?

What is it that the Finance Minister really wants to know? What's the question behind the question?

## LIVE IT

How can we listen well to the interests and questions of those we encounter in our everyday lives?

What stories can we share of our experience of living and following Jesus?

How can we as God's people gathered and scattered point people to Jesus, (rather than simply church) ?

## PRAY IT IN

Pray for those who were contacted by you and your home group during the JoyFest event.

Pray for opportunities for further conversation

Pray for wisdom to listen for the question behind the question, and have the confidence to offer an answer.