

**Lesson Aim:** To guard our heart and focus on developing a heart that cultivates surrender (especially in conversion and baptism) based on God and His Word.



*connecting*

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

**Icebreaker:** Are you a “water sports and recreational activities” kind of person? Why or why not?

1. **Read Acts 8:26-40.** In what ways had God already prepared the Ethiopian eunuch to hear the Good News about Jesus?
2. What specific things did Philip do to join God in this process and “pull in the net” of salvation (help the Ethiopian in his decision to cross the line of faith to trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior)?
3. Would 2 or 3 of you answer this question: how did God prepare you to respond to the truth of the Gospel? Who did He use to help you cross the line of faith and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior?



*growing*

4. Would 2 or 3 of you share (not the same people if at all possible), about a time God used you to share the Gospel with someone who He had been preparing? In what ways had God prepared the person you were sharing with? What was your role in the process?
5. What can we learn from Philip’s example for our day to day lives as witnesses for Christ?
6. Which of the following best describes your opinion about baptism:
  - a) It’s not a big deal. It’s optional for the true follower of Jesus.
  - b) It is necessary to be truly saved from our sins and go to heaven.
  - c) It is not necessary for salvation, but it is a big deal and a command for the follower of Jesus.
  - d) It is very important to be baptized at the church you attend. Therefore, you must be re-baptized every time you switch churches.



*sewing*

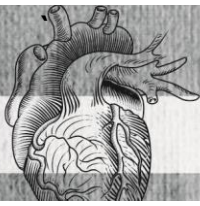
7. Why did you answer question 6 as you did? Which Scriptures support your thoughts?
8. **Read Acts 16:11-34.** In the cases of Lydia and the Philippian jailer, why do you think such a short amount of time passed between their conversion and baptism?
9. Have you ever been baptized? If so, what is your story? Again, if at all possible, have 2 or 3 share who did not answer the other 2 “life story” type questions (#s 3 and 4). What was the process like for you? What kinds of feelings did you have throughout?



*reaching*

10. If you have not either: a) crossed the line of faith to trust Christ as Savior and Lord or b) been baptized as a follower of Christ; what’s holding you back? Would you be willing to take one or both of these steps by the time of our Good Friday Baptism service on April 6? Why or why not?

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**



# Heart

## SURRENDERED HEART

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor  
March 4, 2012

## SURRENDERED HEART

### STEP 1: CONVERSION (Acts 8:26-35)

- ▶ It's not optional (Matthew 18:3; John 3:3)
- ▶ It's not automatic (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23)
- ▶ It's not approximate
- ▶ It's not deserved (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- ▶ It's not complicated

PRINCIPLE #1: For biblical conversion to occur, God must first "prepare the soil"  
of a person's heart.

PRINCIPLE #2: Being religious isn't enough; you must be born again!

### STEP 2: BAPTISM (Acts 8:36-40)

PRINCIPLE #3: There is no such thing as an unbaptized believer in the New Testament.

- ▶ Note carefully the order of Matthew 28:18-20
  - a) Trust in Christ
  - b) Believer's Baptism
  - c) Obedience-Oriented Growth
- ▶ Question: What are you waiting for? (Acts 22:16; cf. Matthew 10:32-33 & Acts 8:36)