

# CONN<sup>3</sup>CT

## Small Group Bible Study

### Why Can't I be Baptized?

Acts 8:26-40

April 3, 2011

What is your understanding of Christian Baptism? If you have been baptized, spend some time talking about what it meant to you.

*Read Acts 8:26-29*

After reading the sermon and reflecting back on this week's sermon, what do we know about the Ethiopian eunuch? Has anyone ever surprised you with their hunger for learning the truth of God? Why might you not have expected it from them?

verses 30-31.

Why did the Spirit lead Philip to this place? According to Romans 10:12-15, what is a Christians responsibility in the lives of others around them?

verses 32-35.

How would you have explained this passage from Isaiah? How did Philip explain it (according to verse 35)? Considering this and 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what do we learn about how we can use scripture in sharing the Gospel? Why is it important to have this assurance for all scripture, and what does it teach us about our own need to study God's word?

verse 36.

What does this passage tell you about Philip's presentation of the Gospel? How does Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:2-6 explain baptism?

If you have been baptized, spend some time reflecting on how you came to the decision to do so. If you have not, consider what is keeping you from doing so.

verses 38-40.

Why do we as Christians sometimes question whether a person is ready for baptism? What is the difference between discernment & judgement? Note verse 37, which is only included as a sub-note in most Bibles. *'Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."'* Why might the church have felt it necessary to include this verse as a later addition to the passage?

How have you been challenged by this episode from the book of Acts? Whether you are a baptized believer, a non-baptized believer, or someone seeking for truth; what has God taught you here, and how will you apply it to your life?

As you reflect on the meaning of Baptism, take some time to read through Article 8 of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches Confession of Faith. **NEXT PAGE**



## Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches Confession of Faith Article 8- Christian Baptism

### **Confession**

We believe that when people receive God's gift of salvation, they are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of having been cleansed from sin. It is a covenant with the church to walk in the way of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Meaning**

Baptism by water is a public sign that a person has repented of sins, received forgiveness of sins, died with Christ to sin, been raised to newness of life, and received the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of the believer's incorporation into the body of Christ as expressed in the local church. Baptism is also a pledge to serve Christ according to the gifts given to each person.

### **Eligibility**

Baptism is for those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and commit themselves to follow Christ in obedience as members of the local church. Baptism is for those who understand its meaning, are able to be accountable to Christ and the church, and voluntarily request it on the basis of their faith response to Jesus Christ.

### **Practice**

We practice water baptism by immersion administered by the local church. Local congregations may receive into membership those who have been baptized by another mode on their confession of faith. Persons who claim baptism as infants and wish to become members of a Mennonite Brethren congregation are to receive baptism on their confession of faith.

[Matthew 3:13-17; 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:2-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:12-13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:4-6](#)

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