Deeply Rooted Week 8:
Who's In?

Scripture: Acts 8: 26-40

Video Lesson:

https://vimeo.com/625922379

Our Prayer:

Holy Spirit, Jesus is for all people, no matter their background. Help me see, act, and love like Jesus. Amen.

Memorable Quotes:

"The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive isn't who it keeps out but who it lets in." — Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*

"Christians spend time on the margins not because it's where God is the least (which invites pity)
but because it's where God is the most (which invites respect and solidarity)." — Tyler Sit, *Staying Awake*

Questions for Reflection:

- What stands out to you about this story?

- Who do you believe is marginalized or treated unfairly in our society? Why?

- What concrete actions can we take to share love and Good News with some of our marginalized neighbors?

- What might be a barrier that prevents marginalized or disadvantaged people from participating in our church community? How could we tear down those barriers?

Practices to Adopt:

- Reread the passage from Acts 8, and read John 4:1-42

- Pray this week's prayer (above)

- Educate yourself and pursue relationships with marginalized people. Consider volunteering with or joining a Racial Reconciliation, Pride Alliance, or Disability Access group

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help remove the stereotypes and biases that we may hold about others

- Take an implicit bias test and examine your own biases

Resources to Go Deeper:

Bible Project ("Is God Inclusive?" podcast)

"Generous Orthodoxy" podcast, Malcolm Gladwell (about An Open Letter to My Beloved Church, from Chester Wenger)
*** Listen to the podcast before reading the letter! ***

Searching for Sunday, Rachel Held Evans   *Barking to the Choir*, Greg Boyle

Staying Awake: The Gospel for Change Makers, by Tyler Sit

Faithful and Inclusive study, Rev. Rob Fuquay (Amplify Media, available through Floris UMC)

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