

Acts 8

Chapter Guided Discovery

Persecution scattered the church, but the gospel kept moving.

Scripture Spotlight

Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.



CHAPTER SUMMARY

Persecution scattered the Jerusalem believers, but the gospel kept moving. Philip preached Christ in Samaria, where many believed and rejoiced. Simon exposed a wrong view of spiritual power, while an Ethiopian official received the message of Jesus and went home rejoicing.



CORE TRUTH

God can use pressure, obedience, Scripture, and Spirit-led conversations to move the gospel farther than His people expected.



DID YOU KNOW?

Samaritans and Jews had a long history of tension, so Philip's ministry in Samaria showed that the gospel was crossing old barriers. Acts 8 also shows personal evangelism: one obedient witness helped one searching traveler understand the good news about Jesus.



QUICK TAKEAWAY

- Persecution did not stop the gospel.
- Philip preached Christ wherever God sent him.
- Spiritual gifts cannot be bought or controlled.
- Scripture points people to Jesus.
- Obedient witness can change one life at a time.

1 FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK

persecution Samaria Simon Holy Spirit Isaiah baptized

1. After Stephen's death, _____ pushed many believers out from Jerusalem.
2. Philip went to _____ and preached Christ to the people there.
3. _____ was impressed by signs and wanted spiritual power for the wrong reason.
4. Peter and John prayed for the Samaritan believers to receive the _____.
5. The Ethiopian official was reading from _____ when Philip met him.
6. After hearing about Jesus, the Ethiopian official believed and was _____.

2 MATCH IT

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Philip | A. Tried to buy spiritual power |
| Simon | B. Was reading Scripture on the road |
| Peter and John | C. Preached Christ in Samaria |
| Ethiopian official | D. Was used by the traveler to ask about Jesus |
| Isaiah | E. Came to Samaria and prayed for the believers |
| Saul | F. Was harming the church in Jerusalem |

3 MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What happened after persecution rose against the church in Jerusalem?
A. The believers stopped speaking about Jesus.
B. The believers were scattered and kept preaching.
C. The apostles all moved to Ethiopia.
D. Simon became the leader of the church.
2. What made Simon's request sinful?
A. He wanted to travel with Philip.
B. He asked too many questions.
C. He thought God's gift could be bought with money.
D. He refused to listen to Peter and John.
3. What did Philip explain to the Ethiopian official?
A. How to become powerful in Samaria
B. How Isaiah's Scripture pointed to Jesus
C. Why Jerusalem was safer than Gaza
D. Why chariots were used for travel
4. How did the Ethiopian official respond after believing the message?
A. He asked to be baptized.
B. He returned to Jerusalem angry.
C. He tried to buy Philip's power.
D. He stopped reading Scripture.

4 PUT IN ORDER

- ____ Philip meets a traveler reading Isaiah on the desert road.
- ____ Simon offers money for spiritual power and is rebuked.
- ____ Persecution scatters believers beyond Jerusalem.
- ____ The Ethiopian believes, is baptized, and rejoices.
- ____ Philip preaches Christ in Samaria, and many respond with joy.
- ____ Peter and John come to Samaria and pray for the believers.

5 TRUE OR FALSE

- ____ 1. Saul was helping protect the church at the beginning of Acts 8.
- ____ 2. Philip's preaching in Samaria brought great joy to the city.
- ____ 3. Simon understood that God's gift could be purchased with enough money.
- ____ 4. The Ethiopian official was reading Scripture when Philip approached him.
- ____ 5. Philip began with the Scripture the man was reading and preached Jesus to him.
- ____ 6. After his baptism, the Ethiopian official went on his way rejoicing.

6 SHORT ANSWER

1. How did God use persecution to spread the gospel in Acts 8?
2. What warning does Simon's request give about the heart?
3. Why was Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian official important?
4. What is one way Acts 8 shows that God cares about people beyond one city or group?



NOTES & THOUGHTS



PERSONAL REFLECTION

In this season I will...



PRAYER PROMPT

Lord, help me obey when You lead, even when the path is unexpected. Give me courage to speak about Jesus clearly, humility to keep my heart right, and love for people who are searching for truth.



REMEMBER

When God's people are scattered, His Word is not weakened; it keeps moving wherever He sends obedient witnesses.