



acts

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS 8:4-25 / October 28

Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts! Today we're studying in chapter 8.

Review: What is going on in the life of the church at this time?

When we left chapter 7, Stephen was killed as the first Christian martyr. At the beginning of chapter 8, we saw the persecution and the scattering of the church.

Let's begin by reading Acts 8:4-8.

- Who is Philip? (Read Acts 6:5.)
- Why is it significant that Philip is preaching at this time, considering the recent events that had taken place?
- Who were the Samaritans? What are some other places where they are mentioned in the Bible? How did they respond to the message of the Gospel? Is their reaction surprising? Why or why not?

Read Acts 8:9-13.

- Who is Simon and what is he doing in Samaria?
- How are the people of Samaria responding to Simon's magic?

Look again at verse 11. What word is used in that verse to describe their response? (*The Samaritans were "amazed" by Simon's magic.*)

- As Philip is preaching, what surprising thing about Simon happens in verse 13? What word is used when describing Simon's response to what Philip is doing? ("Amazed.") What might this response tell us about how Simon really felt about the Gospel?

Read Acts 8:14-25.

- Why did Peter and John come to Samaria?
- What does Simon want from the apostles? Why? What do you think is motivating Simon?
- What is different about Simon's reaction to the Holy Spirit when compared to others who have believed in the Gospel up to this point? (*He wanted the benefits and the power of the Gospel without any intent or desire to repent and serve the church.*)
- What is Peter's response to Simon's request? How would you describe Peter's tone?
- When Simon hears Peter's response, what does he ask Peter to do? Do you think Simon truly understands the Gospel? Why? (*Even when faced with what the consequences of his sins are, Simon still was only seeking safety from consequences without wanting to leave those sins behind.*)

Let's apply this story to our own lives.

- How are we like Simon in this story before we truly believe in the Gospel?
- Do we, like Simon, still sometimes want the benefits and the power of the Gospel without any intent or desire to repent and serve the church? How?
- What else connects with you from this story?

Pray.

KIDS FOCUS

The story of Acts in the Bible tells about how the Good News of Jesus spread to lots of people! We'll see one example in our story today.

In Acts 8:1-3, the people in the church (those who believe in Jesus) are being put into prison by leaders who do not believe in Jesus and hate them. The people in the church had to flee from their homes and find new places to live.

- How do you think the people in the church would have felt?

Read Acts 8:4-8. What do the people who are scattered in verse 4 do as they go?

- Do you think it would be easy to tell people about Jesus when their lives would have been so hard? Why or why not?

Where does Philip go? What does Philip do?

- Philip tells people about Jesus in Samaria! And how do the people in Samaria do when they hear Philip?
- What miracles happen through Philip?

Re-read verse 8. What does "joy" mean? Does Jesus bring you joy? How?

Who can you tell about Jesus, even when life is hard?