

LESSON 8

ACTS 8

1.	Reflecting on Acts 6-7 and Stephen's defense of the faith and his death, what truth, verse or
	insight inspired you to take action or change your course this week?

2. Read **Acts 8**. Imagine you are Philip's traveling companion. What are your most vivid impressions of your encounters recorded in these verses? Identify any major themes you find.

3. How did Saul participate in the persecution against the believers in Jerusalem described in V1-4? How did God use this persecution to advance His purposes? See Acts 1:8.

NOTE: Questions are based on NIV 2011 Translation

4.	In Acts 8:5-8 what did Philip do in a city in Samaria and who is the source of the great joy to that city? Share a favorite verse about joy.
5.	a) What do you learn about Simon's character and what are some of the red flags that reveal why he was interested in Jesus from V9-19 ?
	b) Describe what happened in V15-17 . How did this help the message of Jesus spread unhindered beyond Jerusalem to those traditionally thought to be "outsiders"?
6.	Animosity between the Jews and Samaritans existed for generations. What fears or prejudices might the Jewish believers have had to overcome to accept the Samaritans into the church? What fears or prejudices bubble up when you face believers with different backgrounds or views?
7.	Read V20-24 . What were the reasons given by Peter for confronting Simon, and what is the warning for you?

Lesson 8 2

8. Review **V25-40**.

a) While Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, how and to whom is Philip directed in **V26-29**?

b) What was the Ethiopian seeking to understand and does it appear that his questions were sufficiently answered by Philip? Why or why not?

9. What do you learn from Philip in his encounter with the Ethiopian about how to be an effective witness for Jesus? Where do you need to grow in order to be a more effective witness?

10. REFLECT ON THE WORDS OF JESUS

As believers we are to follow the **Spirit's** leading to reach the broadest possible circle of people and be ready to answer questions about **Jesus** no matter who is asking. In **Luke 19:10 Jesus** said, "**For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.**" Write a prayer in response to the invitation to partner with **Jesus** to tell others about Him without favoritism or partiality.

Lesson 8 3

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST

Lesson 8 4