

**The Week in the Word**  
**Acts Worksheet #13: Philip Goes to Samaria**

Passage: Acts 8:1-25  
Study Period: March 24-29

Sermon Dates: March 29-30  
Link Group Meetings: March 31-April 4

In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, “and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” It was God’s will for the message to reach out beyond the borders of the holy city, and the thing he chose to implement His will was a grand-scale persecution of his people, starting right there in Jerusalem. The death of Stephen was the starting point of this persecution. In this lesson we begin to see how God can take such a tragedy like the death of Stephen, and turn it into a blessing for the whole world.

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1. Read Acts 8:1-4. Up to this point (v.3) what do we know about Saul? (7:58; 8:1,3)
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2. What is Saul’s intention, and how did God turn it around to accomplish His purposes? (Acts 8:1-4, compare Acts 1:8)
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3. Read Acts 8:4-8. Who was Philip? (See Acts 6:3,5; Acts 21:8)
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4. To which ethnic group is Philip preaching? (8:4) What is his message? What is the crowd’s response to Philip’s message and miracles? (8:6)
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5. Read Acts 8:9-13. What was Simon’s occupation? How were the Samaritans responding to him?

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6. Read Acts 8:14-17. Why did the apostles send Peter and John to the Samaritans?

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7. Were these people believers before they received the Holy Spirit?

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8. Can you think of any reason why God might have wanted to wait to give them the Spirit?

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9. Read Acts 8:18-24. What was Simon really looking for as he approached Peter and John?

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10. Verse 13 says that Simon believed and was baptized. But take a look at v.21-23. Would you say he was saved?

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11. What was Simon's real problem? (8:21,23)

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12. What did Peter and John do on their way back to Jerusalem? (8:25) How does this contrast with John's previous attitude toward these people? (compare with Luke 9:51-56)

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13. What had Peter and John learned that would have changed their attitudes toward the Samaritans?

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14. What are some things you look for in people, before you consider them true believers? Is your criteria Biblical?